

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015

Sunday Before Nativity

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spoke to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Nativity in the First Tone

O Bethlehem, rejoice; Ephratha, make yourself ready; * for in her womb the Ewe-lamb does bear the Great Shepherd, * and lo, she now urgently makes haste to give birth to Him. * On beholding Him, the righteous God-bearing Fathers * all rejoice, and with the shepherds sing hymns in praise of * the Virgin that nursed a child.

Apolytikion for the Ancestors of Christ in the Second Tone

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 our God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Annunciation in the First Tone

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

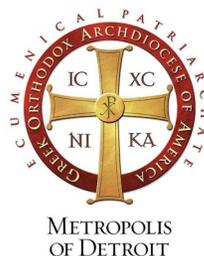
Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζειται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Tone

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

FASTING THIS WEEK

Today Wine & Oil are allowed. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we observe a strict fast. Friday and Saturday are fast free.



*ANNUNCIATION GREEK
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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015

We welcome you to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and are blessed that you have come to our worship service. We hope that this worship experience is both enlightening and inspirational. Each Sunday is the day in which we commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are a visitor to our Parish we encourage you to follow the Divine Liturgy book to assist you in following the Liturgy. Please understand that the Christian Orthodox Church does not practice inter-communion with other Christian denominations. Though we may share a common belief in the Holy Trinity, our churches are not yet one in faith and practice. We believe that Holy Communion is not the means to Christian unity but it is in fact the fullest expression of that unity. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every divine service of the Orthodox Church. Please do not approach for Holy Communion if you are not a baptized/chrismated Orthodox Christian. Feel free to contact Father Simon if you desire to learn more about the Christian Orthodox Church, the Church of the New Testament.

We would like to remind all Orthodox Christians to be spiritually prepared and in proper canonical standing with the Church in order to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

On this the 20th day of the month of December, we commemorate John the New Martyr of Thassos, Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch, Our Righteous Father Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch and the Holy Father John of Kronstadt.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

EPISTLE READING - HEBREWS 11:9-10; 32-40

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Royal Hours/Vespers/Liturgy** Christmas Eve 5:00 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Reception** immediately following Divine Liturgy
- ◆ **Christmas Morning Orthros/Divine Liturgy** 9:00 am
- ◆ **GOYA Trip to Nashville** for Predators Game December 28
- ◆ **Orthros/Divine Liturgy** New Year's Eve 6:00 pm

THIS WEEK'S SERVERS

Epistle Reader: Patricia Grantham
Prosfora: Enosis Touliatos
Usher Duty Team 1: George Deitz & George Karkatsugas
Greeters: Andrew & Tina Douglas
Coffee Hour hosted by Kellye, Luke & Summer Farris & the Melonas Family in Honor of Phil's IRONMAN Triathlon Completion

GOSPEL READING - MATTHEW 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.*.7

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 20

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **40 Day Blessing** for Vito & Sophia, Son & Daughter of Conan & Brianna Kay Castellucci
- ◆ **Nursery Available** 9:30 am - 12 Noon
- ◆ **NO Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour** hosted by Kellye, Luke & Summer Farris & the Melonas Family in Honor of Phil's IRON-MAN Triathlon Completion
- ◆ **GOYA Meeting** 12:00 Noon in the GOYA Room
- ◆ **More Than a Meal** 3:00 pm at Grace-St. Luke's

Monday, December 21

- ◆ **Greek School** 12:00 Noon

Tuesday, December 22

- ◆ **Greek School Party** 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- ◆ **Royal Hours/Vespers/ Liturgy of St. Basil** 5:00 pm
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Reception** 8:00 pm

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

- ◆ **Orthros/Divine Liturgy** 9:00 am

Sunday, December 27

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available** 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon
- ◆ **NO Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour** hosted by Dr. & Mrs. Steve Futris on the occasion of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary