

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

~ a Pan-Orthodox parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese ~

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami
Archpriest Joseph Bittle, Pastor

JESUS
EMMANUEL
god with us

**SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
(THE GENEALOGY)**

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Preparing to Worship the Thrice-Holy God

Upon Entering the Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy;
and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple.

(Ps. 5:7)

A Prayer before Holy Communion

O Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ, our God,
who alone hast authority to forgive men their sins:
overlook in thy goodness and love for mankind all my offences
whether committed with knowledge or in ignorance;
and make me worthy to receive without condemnation
thy divine, glorious, spotless, and life-giving Mysteries,
not for punishment, nor for an increase of sins, but for purification and sanctification and as a
pledge of the life and the kingdom to come,
as a protection and help, and for the destruction of enemies,
and for the blotting out of my many transgressions.
For thou art a God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to thee we send up
glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(St. John of Damascus)

A Word for Newcomers

A warm welcome to all those worshipping with us at Holy Trinity! If you are from a non-Orthodox background you may see many new and unfamiliar things. Rest assured that everything has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please join us for coffee after the service. And feel free to ask Fr. Joseph any questions you may have.

About receiving Holy Communion: The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a formal unity with all the dogma and practice and discipline of the Orthodox Church, **non-Orthodox** guests do not receive Holy Communion. **Orthodox** communicants are reminded that we approach the Chalice with due preparation including recent Confession, keeping the appointed fasts of the Church, and appropriate prayers of *preparation* for the reception of Holy Communion and *thanksgiving* after.

DIVINE LITURGY of ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Variable Hymns and Readings



FIRST ANTIPHON

*Verse: It is good to give praise unto the Lord, and to chant unto Thy name,
O Most High.*

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

Verse: Upright is the Lord our God, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Glory to the . . . Now and Ever . . .

SECOND ANTIPHON

*Verse: The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty;
the Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Refrain: O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee.
Alleluia.

Verse: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Verse: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Glory to the . . . Now and ever . . . Only begotten Son ...

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Beatitudes: In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when thou comest in Thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men shall revile you and shall persecute you
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake;
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.

AFTER LITTLE ENTRANCE

Troparion for Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the Forefeast of Nativity (Tone 4)

Make ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her womb did appear as a supersensual paradise, in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

Troparion of Sunday before Nativity (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

Troparion for Pentecost, patronal feast of the parish (Tone 8)

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast revealed the fisherman as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net. O Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

Kontakion in Preparation for Nativity

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word Who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O Universe, if thou shouldst hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him, Who by His own will shall become a newborn Babe, and Who is our God before all ages.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40 (Sun. before Nativity)

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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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.

GOSPEL: St. Matthew 1:1-25 (*Sun. before Nativity – The Genealogy*)

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 Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz 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 Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar 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 were 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 fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

NATIVITY OF CHRIST

... will be celebrated with Royal Hours at 9:00 AM in the morning, Monday, Dec. 24th. The services of the feast itself (Orthros & Divine Liturgy) will begin at 10:00 PM in the evening, Monday, Dec. 24th. There will be no services on Tuesday the 25th.



THIS WEEK

Nativity Fast through Monday Fast Free from Nativity through January 4th

Monday, Dec. 24	PARAMON OF NATIVITY; Venerable-martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her, Martyrs Achaikos and Basillia; New-martyr Ahmed of Constantinople
9:00 am	Royal Hours
10:00 pm	Orthros of Nativity
11:00 pm	Divine Liturgy of Nativity
Tuesday, Dec. 25	NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Wednesday, Dec. 26	Synaxis of the Theotokos; Euthymios the Confessor, bishop of Sardis; Hieromartyr Constantios the Russian of the Great Lavra on Athos
Thursday, Dec. 27	Proto-martyr Stephen the archdeacon; Venerable-confessor Theodore the Branded
Friday, Dec. 28	Twenty thousand martyrs of Nicomedia; Hieromartyr Glykerion; Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos
Saturday, Dec. 29	The fourteen thousand infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem; George, bishop of Nicomedia; Venerable Markellos of the monastery of the "Unsleeping Ones"; commemoration of all Orthodox Christians who died from hunger, thirst, the sword and freezing
6:00 pm	Great Vespers
6:45 pm	Confessions
Sunday, Dec. 30	THE LORD'S DAY - Virgin-martyr Anysia of Thessalonika; Martyr Philetairos of Nicomedia; Venerable Leon; Venerable-martyr Gideon of Karakallou monastery on Athos; Makarios, Metropolitan of Moscow
	** No Church School **
9:00 am	Orthros
10:00 am	Divine Liturgy
11:30 am	Coffee Hour

2019 CALENDARS are available on the smaller of the two Book Tables in the Narthex. The calendars are FREE. Please take one for your family. Note that these are general calendars for the Revised Julian Calendar, will be generally accurate, but do not necessarily represent *exact details of practice* in the Antiochian Archdiocese or this parish.