The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3].

After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos [Luke 1:31-33, 2:21]. The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured [Colossians 2:11-12]. Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God’s Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world [Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Philippians 2:9-10]. These two events -- the Lord’s Circumcision and Naming -- remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and “are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” [Colossians 2:11]. The very name “Christian” is a sign of mankind’s entrance into a New Covenant with God.

December 29, 2019 – After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the brother of the Lord


Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3):
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 4):
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has shown to the world the light of wisdom! For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore Thee, the Sun of righteousness, and to know Thee, the Orient from on high. O Lord glory to Thee!

A Note to Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We are glad you have joined us today for worship! If this is your first visit to All Saints, please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card at the greeter’s stand before you leave. The greeter also has Liturgy Books for use during the service, if you desire one. We hope you will join us for brunch following this morning’s service.
**Troparion of Sunday after the Nativity (Tone 2):**
Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

**Kontakion for the Nativity (Tone 3):**
Today the Virgin 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 should hear, and glorify with the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him Who by His Will shall become a newborn Babe and Who is our God before all ages.

**Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):**
Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

**Prokeimenon Psalm:**
God is wondrous in His saints.
Bless God in the congregations.

**Epistle Reading: The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians 1:11-19**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23**

**This Week at All Saints**

**Saturday, January 4:** Vespers, 7:30 PM *(Confession available before and after)*

**News and Announcements**

No divine services will be offered at All Saints Church on **Wednesday, January 1, 2020.** Instead, all of us are invited to **Holy Transfiguration Church in Warrenville for Matins at 10:15 am and the Divine Liturgy at 11 am.**

**March for Life Chicago:** Please consider attending the March for Life on **Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 1 PM at Daley Plaza at 50 W. Washington, Chicago.** Join thousands who come to march to support the unborn! For more information please go to the March for Life Chicago website at [https://prolifeaction.org/event/mflc2020/](https://prolifeaction.org/event/mflc2020/)

**Volunteers**

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<td>Sunday Dec 29</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Pat K.</td>
<td>Hal O.</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Gabriel &amp; Domitille N.</td>
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<td>Sunday Jan 5</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Domitille N.</td>
<td>Roberta P.</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Eric &amp; Cristina P.</td>
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<td>Sunday Jan 12</td>
<td>Joseph L.</td>
<td>Cristina P.</td>
<td>Azizeh C.</td>
<td>Polycarp &amp; Gosia G.</td>
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<td>Sunday Jan 26</td>
<td>Polycarp</td>
<td>Sandy A.</td>
<td>Ofelija I.</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Elizabeth K.</td>
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<td>Sunday Feb 2</td>
<td>Doug J.</td>
<td>Carmen C.</td>
<td>Sarah K.</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Nancy L.</td>
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<td>Sunday Feb 9</td>
<td>Jim K.</td>
<td>Debbie K.</td>
<td>Nancy L.</td>
<td>Phil &amp; Rowena L.</td>
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