



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

773-231-6177

www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Saturday Vespers, 7:00pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

Sunday before Nativity • Genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ



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Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: ‘O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee!’

Troparion for the Prophet Daniel & the Three Holy Youths (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 prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Kontakion for Advent (Tone 3): The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth ineffably, to bring forth the Word eternal! Therefore rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him, who shall appear by His own will as a young child: He who is from eternity God.

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.

THE EPISTLE

For the Sunday before the Nativity

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (11:1-12:2)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

By faith **Abel** offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he received approval as righteous, God bearing witness by accepting his gifts; he died, but through his faith he is still speaking.

By faith **Enoch** was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God. And

without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

By faith **Noah**, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith.

By faith **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he 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. By faith **Sarah** herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through **Isaac** shall your descendants be named." He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence he did receive him back, and this was a symbol. By faith **Isaac** invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith **Jacob**, when dying, blessed each of the sons of **Joseph**, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith **Joseph**, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial.

By faith **Moses**, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith **Moses**, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king; for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the first-

born might not touch them. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land; but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith **Rahab** the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given friendly welcome to the spies.

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.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE GOSPEL

For the Sunday before the Nativity

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 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.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today:

- Coffee hour and church school after Liturgy

This week at All Saints:

- Confession, anointing, and any other pastoral blessings are available after each posted service or by appointment.
- **Royal Hours of the Nativity:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9am
- **Wednesday, Dec. 21:** Nativity Vespers (with Old Testament prophecies), 7pm
- **Saturday, Dec. 24:** Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning at 9:00pm.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE: Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. **The drive ends TODAY, Dec. 18.** These will be given to individuals living on the street who visit the drop-in center of Northside Housing. In particular, they are asking for items that don't need cooking, heat and serve containers, or cans with pop-tops (there is a microwave available at the center). And remember: if you use Amazon to order donations, use Amazon Smile with All Saints as the recipient. Also, monetary donations are also accepted; please write 'food drive' on the memo line. If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy Abraham. God blesses those who remember the poor!

COMMUNION FAST BEFORE NATIVITY: In preparing for Holy Communion, Orthodox Christians observe a period of total fasting from all food and drink (if we are able to do so). On Sunday morning, this begins when we wake up, so that the first thing to touch our lips is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. **For evening and late-night Divine Liturgies, we begin the total fast about six hours before receiving Holy Communion.** We don't need to be overly legalistic about this, but on Christmas Eve, we may eat a meal mid-to-late afternoon, and then begin the fast afterwards. Let Fr. Andrew know if you have any questions.

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

- **Saturday, Dec. 31 – Sun. Jan. 1:** All services for St. Basil & the Lord's Circumcision will take place at the usual times (Saturday Vespers at 7pm; Sunday Orthros & Liturgy at 8:30). Also on Sunday, Jan. 1, we will receive the Fajardo family into the Church.
- **Thursday, Jan. 5:** Theophany Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters, 7pm.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun., Dec. 18	Richard C	Cristina P	Domitille	Alina S	R-Z
Sat., Dec. 24 (9pm) <i>Nativity</i>	Sdn. Joseph	Dn Walid	JoAnne T	n/a	n/a
Sun, Jan 1	Doug J	Sandy A	Sandy A	Zach C	A-F
Thurs Jan 5 <i>Theophany</i>	Jim K	Debbie K	Azizeh C	n/a	n/a
Sun, Jan 8	Paul K	Pat K	Nancy L	Lydia A	G-K
Sun, Jan 15	Jason L	Domitille	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P
Sun, Jan 22	Joseph L	Cristina P	Domitille	Alina S	R-Z
Sun, Jan 29	Richard C	Dn Walid	Sandy A	Zach C	A-F

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves.

Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour. And of course, things go faster when we can all pitch in and help.

***Shaded days** are days of fasting for Orthodox Christians. Please avoid bringing meat and dairy.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 18-24, 2022

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE NATIVITY SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 18: Sunday of the Genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ

Genesis 14:14-20 / Deuteronomy 1:8-17 / Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Luke 24:12-35 / Hebrews 11:1-12:2 / Matthew 1:1-25

Monday, Dec. 19: Martyr Boniface

Daniel 7:9-14 / Colossians 1:15-20 / John 1:1-18

Tuesday, Dec. 20: Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch

Micah 4:6-7; 5:1-3 [4:6-7; 5:2-4] / Hebrews 1:1-14 / Matthew 1:18-25

For St. Ignatius: Hebrews 10:32-38 / Mark 9:33-41

Wednesday, Dec. 21: Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs

Baruch 3:35-4:4 / Galatians 3:23-29 / Luke 2:1-20

Thursday, Dec. 22: Anastasia the Great Martyr

Isaiah 7:10-16, 8:1-10 / Hebrews 2:1-10 / Matthew 2:1-12

Friday, Dec. 23: Naoum the Illuminator

Isaiah 9:1-6 [9:1-7] / Hebrews 2:11-18 / Matthew 2:13-23

Saturday, Dec. 24: Eugenia the Righteous Martyr of Rome

Daniel 2:31-45 / Galatians 3:8-12 / Luke 13:18-29

At Nativity Vespers: Hebrews 1:1-12 / Luke 2:1-10

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