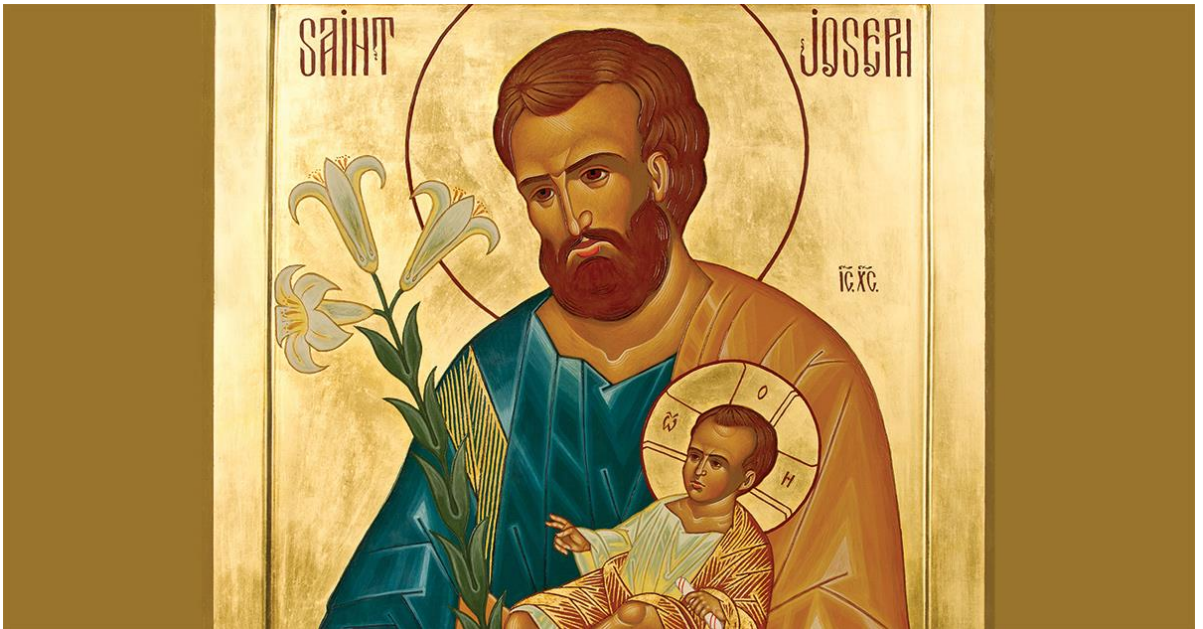


ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
773-231-6177 • www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Sunday of the Genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ
Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am



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Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 1): While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of life: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy providence, O Thou who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of the Fore-feast of the Nativity (Tone 4): Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephrathah, for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin. For her womb did appear as a super-sensual 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.

Apolytikion for the Holy Prophet Daniel and 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 the Nativity Fast (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!

Apolytikion 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.

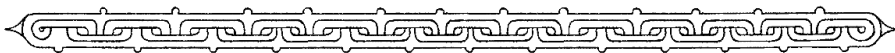
Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon 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.

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.



:: THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST 2024 ::

Archimandrite Jeremy, Archiepiscopal Vicar

The Magi offered to Him from what was His: myrrh and frankincense that He had brought into existence and created. . . . From the great treasury of all creation, Mary gave to Him everything she gave. She gave Him milk from what He made to exist. She gave Him food from what He had created. . . .

He, who is Lord of all, gives to us all, and He Who is Enricher of all, borrows from all. He is Giver of all, as one without needs. Yet He borrows back again like one deprived. He gave cattle and sheep as Creator, but, on the other hand, He sought sacrifices like one deprived. . . . From what is His, Martha [the sister of Lazarus] gave Him food to eat; she placed before Him the foods created by Him. All who gave to Him have vowed from what is His; from His treasury they have placed gifts on His table.

St. Ephraim the Syrian, *Hymns on the Nativity* 4

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Midwest,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in a manger for our salvation!

As St. Ephraim reminds us in the hymn above, everything we can offer Christ has come to us from His hand, yet He humbles Himself to receive from us what He doesn't need, so that we can thereby show our love to Him and connect with Him. This reminds me of when I was a child and my parents would give me a little money for our school's Holiday Shoppe. I would buy things like a snow globe or a mug, wrap them, and give them to my parents on Christmas. They certainly didn't need these trinkets, and if they had, they could have bought them themselves. However, that wasn't the point—they were giving me the chance to do something for them, to express my love for them.

This Christmas, let us each find some special way to demonstrate our love for Christ. Let us go into the Holiday Shoppe of this world, which He has made for us, and pick out something to give Him from our hearts, something that is dear to His heart. First and foremost, let us give Him ourselves in faith, obedience, and devotion.

Wishing you all a joyous feast, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Archimandrite Jeremy

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today:

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by families G-K
- Church school Nativity play, upstairs following coffee hour

Monday, Dec. 23: Nativity Royal Hours (1st and 3rd), 9am

Tuesday, Dec. 24:

- Nativity Royal Hours (6th and 9th), 9am
- Nativity Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 10pm

Friday, Dec. 27: St. Stephen's Day. Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Dec. 28:

- Vespers, 5pm
- Christmas carols, followed by dessert, 7pm

Next Sunday, Dec. 29:

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by families L-P

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun, Dec 22	Michelle C	Domitille	Azizeh C	Alina S	G-K
<u>Tues, Dec 24</u> <i>Nativity, 10pm</i>	Sdn Joseph	Cristina P	Nancy L	n/a	n/a
Sun., Dec. 29	Christy K	Sarah S	John O	Domitille	L-P
<u>Tues., Dec. 31</u> <i>St Basil, 7pm</i>	Jim K	Dn Walid	JoAnne T	n/a	Potluck
Sun., Jan. 5 <i>Theophany</i>	Paul K	Sandy A	Azizeh	Lydia A	R-Z



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 22-28, 2024

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

SUNDAY, DEC. 22: GENEALOGY SUNDAY

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

Monday, Dec. 23: Naoum the Illuminator

Micah 5:1-3 [5:2-4] / Hebrews 1:1-14 / Matthew 1:18-25
Baruch 3:29-4:4 / Galatians 3:23-29 / Luke 2:1-20

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Eugenia the Martyr of Rome and those with her

Isaiah 7:10-16, 8:1-10 / Hebrews 2:1-10 / Matthew 2:1-12
Isaiah 9:1-6 [9:1-7] / Hebrews 2:11-18 / Matthew 2:13-23

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hebrews 1:1-12 / Luke 2:1-20
Matthew 1:18-25 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Matthew 2:1-12

Thursday, Dec. 26: Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

Acts 6:8-15 / Luke 12:2-12

Friday, Dec. 27: Proto-Martyr Stephen the Deacon

Acts 7:1-16 / Matthew 21:33-42

Saturday, Dec. 28: 20,000 martyrs burned in Nicomedia

1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Matthew 12:15-21

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WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO & THE MIDWEST