

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

December 24-25, 2024

The Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Lord Jesus Christ
Festal Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning Tuesday at 10:00pm



Fr. Andrew Kishler, pastor
773-575-3272
Kishler.andrew@gmail.com

**Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon,
retired pastor**
phrii@fsj.org

Deacon Walid Abdul Karim
216-392-9292
Walid1177@yahoo.com

Subdeacon Joseph Freve
773-501-9482
Joeruth5@protonmail.com

ORTHROS GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:18-25)

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 for thy 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.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

Second Antiphon: O Son of God, who wast born of the Virgin, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn: Before the morning star, I begot Thee from the womb. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek. O Son of God, who wast born of the Virgin, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Troparion for the Nativity (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!

Kontakion for the Nativity (Tone 3): The Virgin brings forth today the omnipotent one, and the earth offers a cave to the unapproachable one. Angels give glory with shepherds, and the Magi journey with the star, when for our sakes was born as a new babe, He who is from eternity God.

Trisagion Hymn: As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!

THE EPISTLE READING

For the Nativity of our Lord

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

THE GOSPEL READING

For the Nativity of our Lord

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

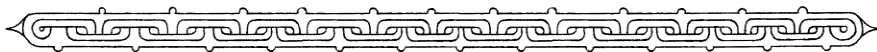
Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.”

When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



Hymn to the Theotokos (Tone 1): O my soul, magnify her, who is more honorable and who is more glorious than the heavenly hosts. A mystery I behold, which is strange and wondrous! The cave is heaven, and the Virgin is the throne of the cherubim. In the confines of the manger, is laid the infinite Christ our God, whom we praise and magnify.

Communion Hymn: The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. He has commanded His covenant forever. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Holy and awesome is His name. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Praise the Lord; His praise endures forever! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

METROPOLITAN SABA'S 2024 NATIVITY MESSAGE

Beloved in Christ,

I extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you in these blessed days of the Nativity, holding you in my prayers and asking our loving and incarnate Lord to lift you to His glory and to pour upon you His abundant earthly and heavenly blessings.

On this sacred day, heaven bent down to embrace the earth, lifting it to itself. Before Christ, humanity knew God as a mighty, powerful, awe-inspiring, and distant figure, one whose wrath they sought to avoid. Yet, in Christ, we came to see a completely different face of God. Through His incarnation, we encountered a God who is loving, embracing, near, and fully present—one who shares in all things with us, except for sin.

God did not merely come to us; He became one of us, like us. He shared in our suffering, and through this, He raised us to Himself. The birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh forever transformed humanity's understanding of God. But have we, as individuals and as Christian communities throughout history, always lived according to what He has revealed and given to us? Often, we have failed to reflect His loving and participatory nature. Yet history is also rich with luminous examples—countless saints and faithful who have reflected the face of Christ in this suffering world.

In this joyous season, let us ask ourselves: How can we be born anew in Christ? How can we contribute to comforting this broken and weary world in which we live? This holy feast challenges us to follow the example of our Savior by embracing those in pain, those who are afraid, and those weighed down by the burdens of life. It calls us to offer them a spark of hope—a light to lift them beyond their worries, their pain, and their fears.

On this feast, let us remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those in the East, who endure hardships and long to experience the joy of our Lord. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him within ourselves first so that we may see His presence in the faces of others.

I greet you with love and joy, saying: Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.