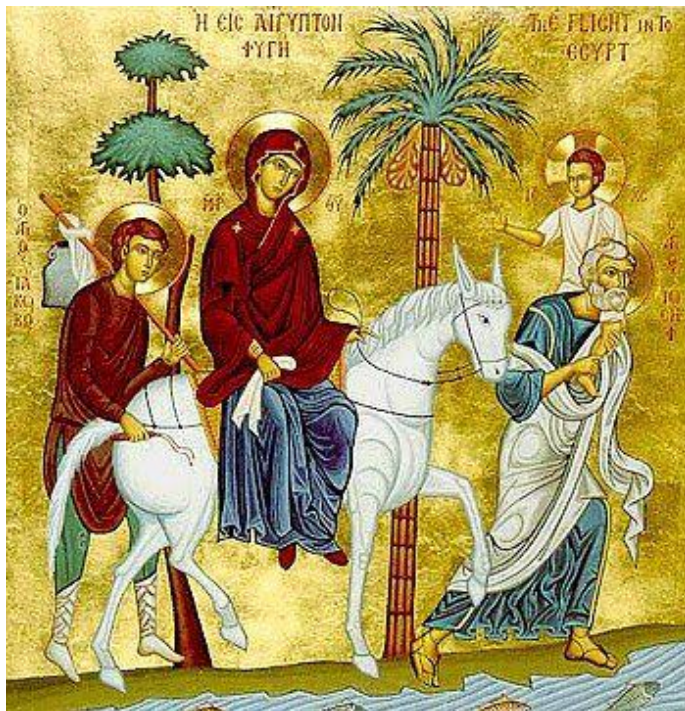


ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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



Fr. Andrew Kishler, pastor
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**Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon,
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Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 2): When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal one, then Thou didst destroy hades 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 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!

Troparion for St. Joseph (Tone 2): Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders, for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child! 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): 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.

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 after Nativity of Christ

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man’s gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own

age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

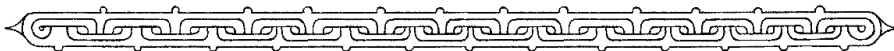
For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "*Out of Egypt have I called My Son.*"

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "*A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.*"

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." He rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "*He shall be called a Nazarene.*"



:: NATIVITY MESSAGE FROM PATRIARCH JOHN ::

By the mercy of God Almighty,

John X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East,

To my brethren, shepherds of the holy Church of Antioch, and my beloved sons and daughters, wherever you may be in the bounds of this Apostolic See:

"The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar, but we, the faithful, have been inscribed in the name of Your divinity."

With these words, penned by the hymnographer Kassiani, the Holy Church invites us to reflect on the Nativity of Christ. It calls us to contemplate the condescension of God the Word during those days when a census of the whole world was ordered. This event, placed before us by the Church, becomes an invitation to enroll ourselves—heart and soul—in the name of Christ. It invites us to belong to Him alone, to be witnesses to His love, witnesses to the greatness of His condescension, witnesses to His Gospel, witnesses to His divinity—a divinity that did not disdain to descend and address a creation that It loved, a humanity fallen in its pride and cast from its glory, only to be met by a Savior who restores it to its former glory.

In the quiet town of Bethlehem, amidst the melodies of the shepherds, the ever-watchful God descended from the heights of His glory. He came to us through a Virgin Mother, clothed in modesty and meekness. He came gentle, addressing a humanity slumbering in the caves of its heart, yearning for the light of the Resurrection and the abundance of hope.

From a humble cave in the depths of the earth, the Most High, the Lord of glory, chose to appear to a humanity shrouded in weakness and veiled in pride. He came as a child to speak to the children of humanity, reclining in the Virgin's womb, which became the womb of every human mind. He came bearing the good news of salvation to a humanity wandering in the deserts of arrogance and vanity. In humility, He came to a humanity exalted in false pride. He entered in power to break down its walls, even as it fortified itself with the ramparts of tyranny and false might.

Each year, humanity commemorates the nativity of that Child amidst the clamor of wars and unending conflicts. Today, we remember Him in the midst of wars and fiery struggles. Today, we remember Him, and in this memory, there is a plea to the Lord of peace. We remember Him through the eyes of every child longing for His peace. We remember Him in the land where He was born, and from the East that nurtured His disciples and launched His Gospel

to the whole world. Humanity remembers Him, yet laments the absence of His presence in the angels' hymn: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." It remembers Him today as it wrestles with the infernal wars that reap lives and steal the joy of humanity. It remembers Him as it stumbles in the mire of politics and the depths of interests that trample human dignity and commodify it in the marketplace of this age's great powers.

Despite these trials, we hold onto the hope emanating from the eyes of the Divine Child, the eyes of the Child of the manger, to whom we plead today for mercy upon His world. We also plead for this humanity, staggering under the bitterness of its wars, longing for the fragrance of His peace. We implore Him to extinguish the fires of war with the sweetness of His peace and to sow in human hearts a measure of His gentleness.

Be with us, O Jesus, and touch our hearts with the sweetness of Your heart. Be with us, as You always are, and grant our lands the spirit of Your peace. Tend to this East, where You were born, with Your divine care, and preserve it with the abundance of Your mercy. Be with Your suffering humanity, as You always are, enduring the afflictions of war—death, terror, hunger, destruction, displacement, and abduction. Calm the turmoil of this world and subdue it with the might of Your silence. Grant rest to the souls of those who have departed to behold Your holy face.

May God return these blessed days to all of you, our children at home and abroad, and to all people. May these days be filled with goodness, prosperity, and blessings from the Child of the manger, the Lord of mercy and the God of all consolation. Amen.

Damascus, December 20, 2024

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 L-P

No morning prayers at the church this week or next; regular morning prayers will resume Tuesday, Jan. 14.

Tuesday, December 31: Feast of our Lord's Naming and Circumcision

- Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 7pm.

Saturday, January 4:

- Festal Vespers for Theophany (with Old Testament lessons), 7pm

Next Sunday, January 5: The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

- Festal Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters.
- Coffee hour provided by families R-Z

THEOPHANY. We will observe Theophany next Sunday, Jan. 5 (a day early, with the blessing of Metropolitan Saba). If you have any holy water bottles from previous years, please reverently dispose of the old holy water outside (not down the drain), and bring the bottles back to be refilled. We have a limited number of bottles at the church for those who do not have one already.

LADIES GROUP MEETING. Our next ladies' group meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 11, at 5pm (before Vespers). The meeting will be for the purposes of planning the coming year's activities, you have the option of attending in-person or online. The ladies of the church will be receiving an email with more information from the All Saints Antiochian Women email. Please see Shay Saba if you have any questions, or if you are not on the email list.

CHURCH SCHOOL will resume for all children, youth, and adults on Sunday, Jan. 12.

PARISH COUNCIL will next meet on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30pm (via Zoom).

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
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
Sun, Jan. 12	Joseph L	Debbie K	Nancy L	Zach C	A-F
Sun., Jan. 19	Richard C	Pat K	John O	Alina S	G-K
Sun., Jan. 26	Sd Joseph	Domitille	JoAnne T	Domitille	L-P
Sun., Feb 2 <i>Presentation</i>	Christy K	Cristina P	Azizeh C	Lydia A	R-Z

For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have 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, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.

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



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 29–JANUARY 4, 2024

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

Sunday, Dec. 29: St. Joseph the Betrothed; the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem
Luke 24:12-35 / Galatians 1:11-19 / Matthew 2:13-23

Monday, Dec. 30: Anysia the Virgin-martyr of Thessaloniki
Acts 7:17-43 / Luke 17:1-4

Tuesday, Dec. 31: Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome
Acts 7:44-8:2 / Luke 18:15-17

Wednesday, January 1: Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ; Basil the Great
Genesis 17:1-14 / Proverbs 8:22-30 / Proverbs 10:31-11:12
John 10:1-9 / Colossians 2:8-12 / Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Thursday, Jan. 2: Seraphim the Wonderworker of Sarov
Joshua 3:6-17 / Acts 13:25-33 / Matthew 3:1-17
4 Kingdoms 2:6-14 / Acts 19:1-8 / Mark 1:1-11

Friday, Jan. 3: Holy Prophet Malachi; Righteous Genevieve of Paris
4 Kingdoms 5:1, 9-14 / Romans 6:3-11 / Luke 3:1-22
Isaiah 49:8-15 / Titus 2:11-15, 3:4-7 / John 1:19-34

Saturday, Jan. 4: Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 / Matthew 3:1-11

ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

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