



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Sunday before the Nativity • The Genealogy of our Lord



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Apolytikion for 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 become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion for Fore-feast of the Nativity (Tone 4): Make ready, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath opened to all. Prepare, O Ephratha, 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 (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.

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.

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!

THE EPISTLE READING

For the Sunday before the Nativity

Prokeimenon – Daniel 3:26, 27

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and worthy of praise; Thy name is glorified forever. Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

The reading is from the Epistle to the Hebrews (11:1-10; 11:32-12:2)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ...

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,

were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE GOSPEL READING

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.

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: Genealogy Sunday, the Sunday before the Nativity

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Chrismation of Daniel Sebastian
- Coffee hour provided by households A-F
- Church school for all ages. Adult class: Joseph Letendre

Tuesday, Dec. 23: First and Third Royal Hours for the Nativity, 9am

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

- Sixth and Ninth Royal Hours for the Nativity, 9am
- Nativity Vigil and Divine Liturgy, 10pm

Friday, Dec. 26: Morning Prayers, 9am

Saturday, Dec. 27: Vespers, 5pm followed by Christmas carols & desserts at 7pm

Next Sunday, Dec. 28: Sunday after the Nativity

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by households G-K
- No church school until 1/11

THE CHICAGO PAN-ORTHODOX CHOIR will perform a concert of Nativity music, next **Sunday, Dec. 28** at 6pm, at Holy Nativity Romanian Orthodox Church (5825 N. Mozart St.). Entrance is free but an offering will be taken.

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, we will celebrate a Vespers Divine Liturgy for St. Basil and the Circumcision/Naming of our Lord Jesus Christ, at 7pm.

ALL SAINTS TALENT SHOW. Mark your calendars! Our church talent show returns **Sunday, January 4** after Liturgy and a potluck meal (no church school that day due to the holidays). Please see Eva Walter if you have any questions.

THEOPHANY SERVICES will take place Monday, Jan. 5 beginning 7pm, with a Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters. Contact Fr. Andrew at your own convenience to schedule your home blessing!

PRISON MINISTRY. Those interested in prison ministry are invited to a short meeting after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, January 11**. If you have not already contacted Jim Marks to ensure he has your email address for ongoing communication, please find his in the directory & contact him.

THE MARRIAGE OF ROB CARO AND NELLIE COCKS will be on Saturday, Jan. 17 at St. George Church in Cicero. More information will be forthcoming.

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun 12/21*	Joseph L	Sephora	JoAnne	Zach	A-F
Wed 12/24 <i>Christmas</i>	Rich C	Debbie K	Azizeh	n/a	n/a
Sun 12/28	Michelle	Pat K	Richard B	Lydia A	G-K
Wed 12/31 <i>St. Basil</i>	Sd Joseph	Domitille	Nancy L	n/a	n/a
Sun 1/4	Jim K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Domitille	Potluck
Mon 1/5 <i>Theophany</i>	Paul K	Dn Walid	Domitille	n/a	Potluck
Sun 1/11	Steve K	Sandy A	John O	<i>volunteer</i>	L-P

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!

**Shaded dates indicate fasting. No meat or dairy should be served at church on these dates.*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS DECEMBER 21-27, 2025

*This week's daily readings have been chosen
for the season of the Nativity.*

Sunday, Dec. 21: Genealogy Sunday

Luke 24:36-53 / Hebrews 11:1-12:2 / Matthew 1:1-25

Monday, Dec. 22: Anastasia the Great Martyr

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

Tuesday, 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 3:23-4:6 / Luke 2:1-20

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

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

Thursday, 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

Friday, Dec. 26: Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

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

Saturday, Dec. 27: St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr

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

**ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**

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