

# ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*  
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641  
[www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**  
Sunday after the Nativity



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**Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 4):** Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the disciples, saying: ‘Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!’

**Apolytikion 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!

**Apolytikion for the Sunday after Nativity (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.

**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 (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.

## **THE EPISTLE READING**

For the Sunday after the Nativity

*Prokeimenon – Psalm 67:35, 27*

Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel. Bless God in the great congregation, the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!

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

BRETHREN, I make known to you that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

## **THE GOSPEL READING**

For the Sunday after the Nativity

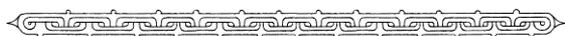
**The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
(2:13-23)**

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." 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.” And 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. 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.”



## Announcements and Upcoming Events

*For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website  
[www.allsaintsorthodox.org](http://www.allsaintsorthodox.org)*

### **Today: Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by households G-K
- No church school until 1/11
- **Pan-Orthodox Nativity concert**, 6pm at Holy Nativity Romanian Orthodox church (5825 N. Mozart). Entrance is free and an offering will be taken.

*No morning prayer services at All Saints this week.*

**Wednesday, Dec. 31:** Vesperal Divine Liturgy for St. Basil & the Circumcision of our Lord, 7pm

**Saturday, Jan. 3:** Vespers, 7pm

**Next Sunday, Jan. 4: The Sunday before Theophany**

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour is a potluck meal. See the sign-up sheet on the back of the front doors.
- **All Saints Talent Show:** Please see Eva Walter if you'd like to perform a talent or have any questions about it!

**THEOPHANY SERVICES** will take place **Monday, Jan. 5.** Royal Hours will begin at 9am, then the Divine Liturgy with Blessing of the Waters at 7pm. 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.

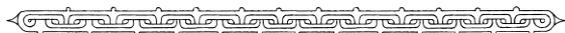
**THE MARRIAGE OF ROB CARO AND NELLIE COCKS** will be on **Saturday, Jan. 17** at St. George Church in Cicero. More information will be forthcoming.

**WINTER CONCERTS AT ALL SAINTS:**

- On **Saturday, Jan. 24,** we welcome the concert choir from Holy Transfiguration Church in Warrenville, who will perform a series of hymns from the Church year. Concert begins at 4pm, followed by a potluck meal and Vespers.
- On **Saturday, Jan. 31,** our own Sara Beth Thomas will perform a concert for us of her own compositions. Performance begins at 5pm followed by Vespers.

**PARISH COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS' RETREAT.** All clergy, parish council members, and other ministry leaders and teachers are invited to participate in a retreat led by Fr. Chad Hatfield of St. Vladimir's Seminary, on **Saturday, Jan. 31,** from 9am to 3pm at St.

George Church in Cicero. Please see Fr. Andrew if you have any questions! A flyer with QR code for registration is posted downstairs.



## **NATIVITY MESSAGE**

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba

I greet you on the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh, and I pray that your days may be blessed and your lives made holy by His abiding presence within you and among you. I place before you some sayings of the French Orthodox theologian Olivier Clément (+2009), hoping they may help you reflect on some of the essential meanings of the Feast of the Nativity, so that you may live it more deeply.

Olivier sees the Nativity as a call to allow the incarnate Word to dwell within us, so that we in turn may become words of consolation and hope. Thus, the feast becomes more than a season or beautiful rituals; it becomes a daily journey of discipleship, through which the world is renewed from within, the logic of domination is replaced by the logic of giving, and the night of humanity is illumined by a light that never fades.

“The Nativity is the beginning of the revolution of divine love, in which God enters into human fragility in order to transform it into glory.” (The Song of Tears)

“God did not come to Bethlehem to assert power, but to reveal a weakness stronger than all power: the power of love.” (The Roots of Christian Mysticism)

“The Nativity is not an event of the past, but a mystery present at every moment, for God continues to be born in the heart of the one who opens himself to Him.” (The Transfiguration of Death)

“Christ came so that we might fulfill our humanity in Him, that He might raise it to its full stature in love and freedom.” (The Song of Tears)

“The Incarnation of Christ proclaims that time is no longer a closed circle, but has become a path to eternity, because God has entered our history.” (The Song of Tears)

“The cave is no longer merely a place, but the human heart when it opens itself to the presence of God.” (The Song of Tears)

“In a world consumed by nothingness and despair, the light of the Nativity shines forth to say to us: You are not alone—God is with you, God is within you.” (The Roots of Christian Mysticism)

On this blessed feast, my prayer for you is that God may remain with you, that you may always be aware of His presence, and that you may respond to Him. May every Nativity find you in all goodness.

## Volunteer Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Prospora</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Food</b>
<b>Sun 12/28</b>	Michelle	Pat K	Richard B	Lydia A	G-K
<b>Wed 12/31</b> <i>St. Basil</i>	Sd Joseph	Domitille	Nancy L	n/a	n/a
<b>Sun 1/4</b>	Jim K	Cristina P	Tobey L	Domitille	Potluck
<b>Mon 1/5</b> <i>Theophany</i>	Paul K	Dn Walid	Domitille	n/a	Potluck
<b>Sun 1/11</b>	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 DEC. 28–JAN. 3

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

**Sunday, Dec. 28: King David & St. Joseph the Betrothed**

John 20:1-10 / Galatians 1:11-19 / Matthew 2:13-23

**Monday, Dec. 29: The Holy Innocents of Bethlehem**

Acts 7:1-16 / Luke 17:1-4

**Tuesday, Dec. 30: Virgin-Martyr Anysia of Thessaloniki**

Acts 7:17-43 / Matthew 21:33-42

**Wednesday, Dec. 31: Leave-Taking of the Nativity**

Acts 7:44-8:2 / Luke 18:15-17

**Thursday, Jan. 1: St. Basil the Great & the Circumcision of our  
Lord**

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

**Friday, Jan. 2: Seraphim, Wonder-worker of Sarov**

Joshua 3:6-17 / Acts 13:25-33 / Matthew 3:1-6

**Saturday, Jan. 3: St. Genevieve of Paris**

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 / Matthew 3:7-17

**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**