



SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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December 29, 2019

28th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 3

Sunday after Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord



From the Fathers...

“And the Word became flesh! In order to make us earthly beings into heavenly ones, in order to make sinners into saints; in order to raise us up from corruption into incorruption, from earth to heaven; from enslavement to sin and the devil—into the glorious freedom of children of God; from death—into immortality, in order to make us sons of God and to seat us together with Him upon the Throne as His royal children.”

- St John of Kronstadt



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



What shall we offer Thee, O Christ,/ Who for our sakes hast appeared on earth as a man?/ Every creature made by Thee offers Thee thanks:/ the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;/ the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;/ the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,/ and we offer Thee a virgin Mother!// O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

Let us all praise King David, the ancestor of God,/ for from him came the virgin stem;/ from this stem blossomed the Flower – Christ./ Delivered from corruption Adam and Eve cry out to Him,// for He is compassionate.

In his old age Joseph the Betrothed clearly saw the prophecies fulfilled./ He was given a mysterious command,/ but he received enlightenment from the Angels who cried out:// “Glory to God, for He has granted peace to the world!”

Let us all praise the brother of the Lord!/ He is a bishop and also a courageous martyr./ Therefore, O Jesus,/ God wrapped in swaddling clothes in the cave and manger,// through his prayers save those who praise Thee! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

Nativity of Christ Troparion in Tone 4

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone 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!

Righteous Ones Troparion in Tone 4

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; / thou didst worship with the Magi, / and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Righteous Ones Kontakion in Tone 3

Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Nativity of Christ Kontakion in Tone 3

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

But I make known to you, brethren, 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.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, December 29th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Sunday after Nativity

Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

14,000 Holy Innocents slain by Herod at Bethlehem

Galatians 1:11-19, Matthew 2:13-23

Monday, December 30th

Afterfeast of Nativity

Virgin-Martyr Anysia at Thessalonica

Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19, Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday, December 31st

Leavetaking of Nativity

Ven. Melanie the Younger of Rome

Hebrews 4:1-13, Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday, January 1st

Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea

Colossians 2:8-12, Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Luke 2:20-21, 40-52, Luke 6:17-23

Thursday, January 2nd

Forefeast of the Theophany

Repose of Ven. Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov

St. Sylvester, Pope of Rome

Galatians 5:22-6:2, Hebrews 7:1-6

Luke 6:17-23, Mark 12:38-44

Friday, January 3rd

Forefeast of the Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachi

Ven. Genevieve of Paris

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7, Hebrews 7:18-25

Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 13:1-8

Saturday, January 4th

5:00 PM Great Vespers

Forefeast of the Theophany, Saturday before Theophany

Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Matthew 3:1-11

Sunday, January 5th

9:00 AM Baptism and Chrismation

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

11:30 AM Potluck Lunch

Eve of Theophany, Sunday before Theophany

Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Mark 1:9-11

We Do Not All Need the Same Things



Gifts, those we give and those we receive, are on our minds during the season of Christmas. One of the all-time great givers of gifts was Saint Melania of Rome.

She used her immense wealth to give personal help to countless needy people, as well as supporting the institutions of the Church. Her gifts were gratefully accepted, especially because she gave them in humility, without any expectation of praise or special honor.

But one story about Melania describes a time when her monetary gifts were not welcome. It happened at an Egyptian men's monastery she was visiting. Rich as she was, Melania chose not to live in luxury and ease. Yet even the simplicity of her life must have seemed lavish compared to what she saw in the monastery. She was amazed at the monks' life, making do with only the barest essentials and letting nothing of the world distract them from their constant attention to prayer.

Melania soon understood that the men were unwilling to accept any money from her. But while paying a visit to one monk whose name was Ephestion, she saw that in his cell there was almost nothing--only a bit of bread and water, the mats he wove, and a salt pot. Determined to give him something, she hid a few gold coins in the salt pot, and went on her way.

A few moments later, she heard the footsteps of someone running after her. It was Ephestion, clutching her coins in his hand and shouting, "I don't need this; it is yours so take it back!"

Melania answered, "If you don't need it, surely you can give it to someone who does."

"No, no," the monk insisted. "Nobody around here would have any use for it." And with that, because Melania resisted taking them back, he flung the coins into the river and went back to his cell. Money was something that he and his brother monks didn't need. They didn't even want it, knowing the power of money to become a temptation to sin.

It takes time and effort to know and discern what we need, because we don't all need the same things. The Church's prayers reflect this. In the Litany of Supplication, for example, the priest prays for us to be granted "all things that are good and profitable for our souls." Not that we be granted what we may want or think we need, not just things that will help us "keep up with" everyone else, but the things that truly are good and profitable for us. In a similar way, before he elevates the Gifts for Holy Communion, the priest asks God to distribute them "unto all of us, for good, according to the individual need of each." Many of us wouldn't throw a gift of gold coins into the nearest river. But if we work to discern what we really need, and trust God to give it, we can discard a lot of things that are just taking up space.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

House Blessing Sign Up

Starting next weekend, we will have forms to sign up for house blessings beginning in early January! This is a wonderful opportunity to have your home blessed, and to sit down with Fr. Gregory to get to know each other better.

Potluck Lunch

We will have a potluck lunch on **Sunday, January 5th** to celebrate the baptism and chrismation of Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, and Harry. Please join us!

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting is **Sunday, January 26th**. A reminder that according to the Diocesan Constitution (Article VIII, Sec. 1), voting membership is determined by the following criteria:

- At least 18 years old
- Partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his/her home parish at least once a year (see Fr. Gregory if you confess to another priest)
- Has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish (at least one year)
- Regularly fulfills all financial obligations (which essentially means filling out the annual stewardship form)

Only voting members may be elected to vacancies on the Parish Council (Article VIII, Sec. 5)

Officer and Committee Reports

All Annual Officer and Committee reports are due by **Sunday, January 12th**. Please email to George Ghareeb at georgeghareeb@outlook.com.

Parish Council Vacancies

If you are interested in serving on the Parish Council, please see Cyndi Hopper or any Parish Council member for more information.

Confession Available

Fr. Gregory is available to hear confessions after Vespers and by appointment. The Nativity Fast is a great time to come to confession. Just a reminder, confession and communion are Diocesan Bylaw requirements to maintain full voting membership in the parish.

Pan-Orthodox Events

There will be Pan-Orthodox Vespers on **Saturday, January 4th** at 6:00pm at St. George (Woodley) and Pan-Orthodox Game Night on **Sunday, January 19th** at St. George (Woodley).

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, Harry, Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit today by Bill and Dota Karayannis for the health, salvation, and a prosperous 2020 of the parish and in memory of Nicholas and Fani Karayannis and in memory of Gregory and Konstantina Shinagoer. May their memories be eternal!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Stan Ostas (1/1)
George Popoff (1/1)
Tim Barton (1/1)

Name's Days:

Dave Beleny, Sr (12/29)
Dave Beleny, Jr (12/29)
Bill Karayannis (1/1)