

LAMP LIGHTING PSALMS

**6. *If You retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who will be left?
With You there is forgiveness.***

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us proclaim the present mystery by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword withheld: now shall the Cherubim let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Paradise whence I had been driven by the original disobedience. Behold, the Image of the Father and His immutable Eternity has taken the form of a servant! He has come down to us from a Mother all-pure, and yet He has remained unchanged: He has remained true God as He was before, and has taken on Himself what He had not been, becoming Man out of His love for man. Wherefore, let us raise our voices in hymns and sing: “O God who was born of the Virgin, O our God, have mercy on us!”

5. *If you For Your Name’s sake, O Lord, I have waited for You; my soul has waited for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.*

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us proclaim the present mystery by which the partition has been broken and the flaming sword withheld: now shall the Cherubim let us all come to the Tree of Life. As for me, I am returning to the bliss of Paradise whence I had been driven by the original disobedience. Behold, the Image of the Father and His immutable Eternity has taken the form of a servant! He has come down to us from a Mother all-pure, and yet He has remained unchanged: He has remained true God as He was before, and has taken on Himself what He had not been, becoming Man out of His love for man. Wherefore, let us raise our voices in hymns and sing: “O God who was born of the Virgin, O our God, have mercy on us!”

4. *From the watch of dawn until the night, from the watch of dawn let Israel long for the Lord.*

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: the shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh.

**3. *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him abundant redemption
And it is He who will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.***

When the Lord Jesus was born of the Virgin, the whole creation lit up. Behold: the shepherds keep watch, the Magi adore, angels sing hymns of praise and Herod trembles, for the Savior of our souls has appeared in the flesh.

LAMP LIGHTING PSALMS

2. Praise the Lord, all you nations, exalt Him, all you peoples.

O Christ our God, Your kingdom is eternal and Your dominion from generation to generation. You have become incarnate of the Holy Spirit, being made Man through the ever-virgin Mary. Your coming, O Christ, has shed upon us a great light, O You Light of Light and Radiance of the Father! You have illumined the whole creation. Wherefore everything that breathes sings to You a hymn of praise, O Image of the Father's glory, eternal God, existing before all ages, who shone forth from the Virgin! O Lord, glory to You!

1. For mighty is His love for us, and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

O Christ, what shall we offer You for Your coming on earth as a Man for our sake? Every creature that has its being from You gives thanks to You: the angels offer hymns of praise, the heavens give a star; wise men present their gifts, and the shepherds, their wonder; the earth provides a cave and the desert a manger. As for us, we offer You a Mother, a Virgin Mother. O God who are from all eternity, have mercy on us!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

When Augustus became supreme ruler of the world, the multiplicity of powers among men came to an end. When You became incarnate of the spotless Virgin, the worship of many gods had to cease. The cities came under a universal power, and the Gentiles believed in a single divine Power. Nations were registered in the name of Caesar Augustus, and we the faithful were registered in Your divine name by Your incarnation. O Lord who are born, great is Your mercy! Glory to You!

(There is no Prokimenon)

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis. (1:1-13)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

5. Abraham [Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6 – 12]: *stars*
6. Melchizedek [Genesis 14:17-20]: *bread & wine*
7. Isaac [Genesis 22:1-19]: *ram*
8. Rebecca [Genesis 25:19-34; and 27]: *well*
9. Jacob [Genesis 28:10-22 or 32: 25-31]: *ladder*
10. Rachel & Leah [Genesis 29:15-30]: *veil*
11. Joseph [Genesis 37:3-4 and 17-36; 50:15-21]: *coat of many colors*
12. Moses [Exodus 3:1-15// Exodus 20:1-21]: *burning bush // 10 Commandments*
13. Rahab [Joshua 2:1-21]: *red chord*
14. Joshua [Joshua 6:1-20]: *trumpet; wall of Jericho*
15. Deborah [Judges 4:1-16]: *palm tree*
16. Gideon [Judges 7:1-8, 15-20]: *torch*
17. Samson [Judges 13:1-5; 15:14-17]: *scissors & hair*
18. Ruth [Ruth chapters 1-4]: *wedding rings*
19. Hannah [1 Samuel 1:1-20, 24-28; 2:18-20]: *small robe*
20. Samuel [1 Samuel 3:1-19; 16:1-13]: *oil*
21. Jesse [1 Sam. 16:1-13]: *shepherd's staff*
22. David [1 Samuel 16:1-16]: *crown*
23. Solomon [1 Kings 3:4-15]: *scepter*
24. Elijah [1 Kings 19:3-13; 2 Kings 2:1-5, 9-13]: *chariot*
25. Jonah [Jonah 1:1-17; 2:10; 3:1-3]: *whale*
26. Jeroboam & Rehoboam [1Kings12:3]: *broken crown*
27. Isaiah [Isaiah 9:1-6 and 11:1-9]: *branch; lamb*
28. Ezekiel [Ezekiel 37:1-14 and 24-28]: *bones*
29. Ester [Esther 2:17-18; 3:8-15; 4:7-16; 7:10]: *crown*
30. Daniel [Daniel 1:1-4; 6:1-28; 7:13-14]: *lion*
31. Malachi [Malachi 4:1-6]: *sun*
32. Elizabeth [Luke 1:5-25]: *home*
33. John the Baptist [Luke 1:57-80]: *shell & water; reed*
34. Joseph [Matthew 1:18-25]: *hammer; saw*
35. Mary [Luke 1:26-38, 39-56 // Luke 2:1-14]: *lily // manger*

This artistic expression originates in a passage in the Book of Isaiah 11:1-3 which describes metaphorically the descent of the Messiah, the son of David.

**But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
et egredietur virga (green twig ~ virgin) de radice Jesse
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
et flos (flower) de radice eius ascendet. [Vulgate]
The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,**

**A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.**

The various figures depicted in the lineage of Jesus are drawn from those names listed in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. In the New Testament the lineage of Jesus is traced by two of the Gospel writers, Matthew in descending order, and Luke in ascending order. Luke's Gospel's description [chapter 3] begins with Jesus himself and is traced all the way back, via Nathan to David and then on to Adam, which was [the son] of God (Luke 3:23-38). Matthew's Gospel opens with the words: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). With this beginning, Matthew shows the Abrahamic and royal descent, passing through David, but then through Solomon. But both lineages permit the interpretation that Jesus is the "stem of Jesse" by his descent from Jesse's son, David.

Pictorial representations of the Jesse Tree show a symbolic tree or vine with spreading branches to represent the genealogy in accordance with Isaiah's prophecy. The 12th-century monk, Hervaeus, expressed the medieval understanding of the image, based on the Vulgate text: "The patriarch Jesse belonged to the royal family, that is why the root of Jesse signifies the lineage of kings. As to the rod, it symbolizes Mary as the flower symbolizes Jesus Christ."

There is a wide range of interpretations of which figures to include in the Jesse Tree. Some choices are very literal and only use the family line of Jesus, others include salvation history with key biblical figures, including prophets, and still others incorporating events and typology and symbols not always connected with a certain person.

SYMBOLS OF JESSE TREE

1. **Adam & Eve** [Genesis 3:1-24]: *apple & snake*
2. **Seth** [Genesis 4:25-26]: *mirror*
3. **Noah** [Genesis 6:11-9:17]: *rainbow*
4. **Shem** [Genesis 5:32; Genesis 9:24-27]: *grapes*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the book of Numbers. (24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18)

And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and saw Israel encamping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his discourse, and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Be'or, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, but having his eyes uncovered: how fair are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! Like valleys that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. God brings him out of Egypt; he has as it were the horns of the wild ox, he shall eat up the nations his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces, and pierce them through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down like a lion, and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed be every one who blesses you, and cursed be every one who curses you." I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab, and break down all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed, Se'ir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed, while Israel does valiantly.

THIRD READING:

A reading from the prophet Micah. (4:6-7, 5:1-3)

In that day, says the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away, and those whom I have afflicted; and the lame I will make the remnant; and those who were cast off, a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and for evermore. Now you are walled about with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike upon the cheek the ruler of Israel. But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

All Stand

RESPONSORIAL HYMNS: (TONE 6)



You were born hidden in a cave, but heaven spoke



through a star and proclaimed You to all, O Sa - viour.



It brought to You the Ma - gi to worship You in



faith: with them have mer - cy on us.

(After each versicle the refrain is sung by the cantors, all sing:)



It brought to You the Ma - gi to worship You in



faith: with them have mer - cy on us.

(After the Glory be to the Father... all sing the full hymn as above.)



DIOCESE OF NEWTON
*for the Melkite Catholic Church
in the United States of America*

BISHOP FRANÇOIS BEYROUTI

Christmas 2024

“Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shed the light of knowledge upon the world.”

-From the Troparion of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Dear beloved clergy, faithful parishioners, and friends,

The Nativity of our Lord is a celebration that the light of God has come upon us.

During this time of year, the light of day is shortest and the darkness of night is longest. In the winter, we yearn for the warmth and light of the sun, because by light we can see. By light, we live, work, play, and walk without stumbling. Light also warms us and allows living things to grow. Soon, the light of day will shine more brightly. And our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord reminds us that the light of Christ also shines upon us. His light illumines our world and shows us that the meaning and purpose of our lives is only fulfilled in Him.

In this Great Feast, we celebrate that the light of Christ overcomes the darkness of this world with love, justice, and truth. When we live according to the Gospel teachings, we too shine His light in the darkness. When we participate in Sunday and weekday prayers as a community of faith, we grow in our life in Christ. His light warms our souls and enlivens our hearts that we may live and love more fully.

In this joyful season, I am grateful for the blessings that you are and hopeful for our future together. As Melkite Catholics, who were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11), we have a great responsibility to live and pass on our faith. May the birth of our Savior bring us together as a family of faith so that we, our families, and our churches may bear witness to light of Christ in us.

To you and all of your loved ones, I send my warmest greetings and heartfelt Christmas blessings.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Almaseeh Wulidah. Fa-Majidoo.

With my prayers and best wishes,

+ François

✠ Most Reverend François Beyrouiti, Ph.D./D.Th.

Eparchial Bishop of Newton

For the Melkite Catholic Church in the United States of America

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GREAT DESPERS OF THE NATIVITY

2024 NATIVITY LETTER BISHOP FRANÇOIS

NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD,

GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Wednesday, 25 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Galatians 4:4-7 †† Matthew 2:1-12

10:00 a.m. - *Divine Liturgy*

Thursday, 26 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Second Day of the Nativity

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos

Holy Hieromartyr Euthymios,

Archbishop of Sardica

Hebrews 2:11-18 †† Matthew 2:13-23

10:00 a.m. - *Divine Liturgy*

Friday, 27 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Third Day of the Nativity

Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen

Venerable Father Theodore the Branded, Confessor,

brother of Theophane the Hymnographer

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5 & 47-60 †† Mt 21:33-42

Saturday, 28 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Fourth Day of the Nativity

Holy Martyrs burned at Nicomedia

James 2:14-26 †† Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, 29 December ♦♦♦♦♦

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Fifth Day of the Nativity

Holy & Just Man Joseph, Spouse of Theotokos

James, the Brother of the Lord

David, the King and Prophet

Holy Innocents put to death by King Herod

Venerable Father Marcellus,

Hegumen of the Monastery of the Acemetes

James 3:1-10 †† Mark 11:11-23

9:00 a.m. - *Resurrectional Orthros*

10:00 a.m. - *Divine Liturgy*

Monday, 30 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Sixth Day of the Nativity

Holy Martyr Anysia

James 3:11-18; 4:1-6 †† Mark 11:22-26

Tuesday, 31 December ♦♦♦♦♦

Leave-taking of the Nativity

Venerable mother Melany the Roman

Holy Martyr Zoticos, the Feeder of Orphans

James 4:7-17; 5:1-9 †† Mark 11:27-33

CIRCUMCISION IN THE FLESH OF OUR

LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Father among the Saints Basil the Great,

Wednesday, 01 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Colossians 2:8-12 †† Luke 2:20-22, 2:40-52

10:00 a.m. - *Divine Liturgy*

Thursday, 02 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Forefeast of the Theophany

Father among the Saints Sylvester of Rome

1 Timothy 3:13-16; 4:1-5 †† Matthew 3:1-6

Friday, 03 January ♦♦♦♦♦

[DAY OF STRICT ABSTINENCE,

& FASTING UNTIL NOON]

Second Day of Forefeast of the Theophany

Holy Prophet Malachy

Holy Martyr Gordios

Timothy 4:5-8 †† Mark 1:1-8

Saturday, 04 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Third Day of Forefeast of the Theophany

Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Disciples

Venerable Father Theoctistos,

Hegumen of the Monastery of Cucume in Sicily

1 Timothy 4:9-15 †† John 5:17-24

3:00 p.m. - *Confessions*

3:15 p.m. *Great Vespers*

4:00 p.m. *Divine Liturgy*

PARAMONY OF THE THEOPHANY

Sunday before Theophany

Holy Martyrs Theopemptos & Theonas

Venerable Mother Syncretica

Sunday, 05 January ♦♦♦♦♦ **Fast Day**

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 †† Luke 3:1-18

9:00 a.m. *Resurrectional Orthros*

10:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy*

5:30 p.m. - *Great Vespers*

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND

SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

[HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION]

Monday, 06 January ♦♦♦♦♦

Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-7 †† Matthew 3:13-17

10:00 a.m. - *Festal Orthros*

5:30 p.m. - *Divine Liturgy*

- *Great Blessing of Waters*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

FOURTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (11:1-10)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

FIFTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Baruch. (3:35-4:2)

This is our God; no other can be compared to him! He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he loved. Afterward she appeared upon earth and lived among men. She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light.

SIXTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Daniel. (2:31-36, 44-45)

Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. "This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

ever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

All Stand

RESPONSORIAL HYMNS: (TONE 6)



You rose from the Virgin, O Christ, spi-ri-tu-al Sun



of jus-tice. A star pointed to You held in a cave,



O un-con-tain-a-ble God.



You led the Ma-gi to a-dore You: with them we

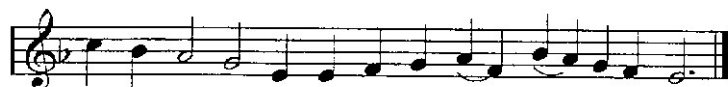


mag-ni-fy You, O Gi-ver of life, glo-ry to You.

(After each versicle sung by the cantors, all sing:)



You led the Ma-gi to a-dore You: with them we



mag-ni-fy You, O Gi-ver of life, glo-ry to You.

(After the Glory be to the Father... all sing the full hymn as above.)

IN LOVING MEMORY:

*Divine Liturgy
offered for these intentions
on January 06, 2025*

Edward & Dorothy Abda

from Mrs. Karen Kane

from Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Barrett

Helen Anna Bartnicki

Joseph Stanley Bartnicki

Thomas Bartnicki

from Mr. Steve Bartnicki

Edward and Marie Barrett

from Mr. & Mrs. A. Barrett

Paul & Mary Ann Bauman

from Mr. & Mrs. Paul Patchoski

Adele Carker

Ms. Karin Mille

Rev. William Egan

from Ms. Karin Mille

Mary Kay McElhenny

from Mr. & Mrs. Paul Patchoski

Frank & Minnie Milewski

Sonny Milewski

from Mr. & Mrs. Michael

Milewski

Mille Family

from Ms. Karin Mille

Eugene J. O'Hop

Helen M. O'Hop

from Steve Bartnicki

Edmund Jack & Marie Patchoski

from Mr. & Mrs. Paul Patchoski

Amen Sirgany Family

from Ms. Karin Mille

NATIVITY AMBON PRAYER

O Master, Christ our God, Who from before all ages didst shine forth from the Father without passion, and in the latter days was ineffably incarnate and born of the most holy Virgin;

Who for our sakes was made poor, that by Thy poverty we might be enriched;

Who was wrapped in swaddling clothes as an infant, and laid in a manger,

yet as God possesses all things: Thyself accept our humble prayers and praises, as Thou did the Shepherds' songs of praise and the gifts and homage of the Magi.

Make us to be like unto the heavenly Host praising Thee in hymns, Who are born on earth;

Shew us to be heirs of the eternal joy prepared for those that worthily honor Thy Nativity.

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians, uphold Thy Churches, Thy priests and all Thy people.

For Thou are God that love mankind, and art glorified, together with Thine unoriginate Father, and Thine all-holy, and Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

tality: and for the paying off of the debt, belonging to our condition, inviolable nature was united with passible nature, and true God and true man were combined to form one Lord, so that, as suited the needs of our case, one and the same Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, could both die with the one and rise again with the other.

Rightly therefore did the birth of our Salvation impart no corruption to the Virgin's purity, because the bearing of the Truth was the keeping of honour. Such then beloved was the nativity which became the Power of God and the Wisdom of God even Christ, whereby He might be one with us in manhood and surpass us in Godhead. For unless He were true God, He would not bring us a remedy, unless He were true Man, He would not give us an example. Therefore the exulting angel's song when the Lord was born is this, Glory to God in the Highest, and their message, peace on earth to men of good will (Luke 2:14). For they see that the heavenly Jerusalem is being built up out of all the nations of the world: and over that indescribable work of the Divine love how ought the humbleness of men to rejoice, when the joy of the lofty angels is so great?

III. Christians Then Must Live Worthily Of Christ Their Head

Let us then, dearly beloved, give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, Who for His great mercy, wherewith He has loved us, has had pity on us: and when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together in Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5), that we might be in Him a new creation and a new production. Let us put off then the old man with his deeds: and having obtained a share in the birth of Christ let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, acknowledge your dignity, and becoming a partner in the Divine nature, refuse to return to the old baseness by degenerate conduct. Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recollect that you were rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom. By the mystery of Baptism you were made the temple of the Holy Ghost: do not put such a denizen to flight from you by base acts, and subject yourself once more to the devil's thralldom: because your purchase money is the blood of Christ, because He shall judge you in truth Who ransomed you in mercy, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

SEVENTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (9:6-7)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

EIGHTH READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. (7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10)

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write upon it in common characters, 'Belonging to Ma'her-shal'al-hash-baz.'" And I got reliable witnesses, Uri'ah the priest and Zechari'ah the son of Jeberechi'ah, to attest for me. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Ma'her-shal'al-hash-baz; for before the child knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Sama'ria will be carried away before the king of Assyria." God is with us! Be broken, you peoples, and be dismayed; give ear, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed. Take counsel together, but it will come to nought; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

LITANY: For you are Holy O our God...

TRISAGION: All of you who have been baptized...

VIGIL LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

LITANY: For you are Holy O our God...

Liturgy Book p. 49

TRISAGION: All of you who have been baptized...

Liturgy Book p. 51

PROKIEMENON: *Psalm 2: 7, 8*

Tone 4

The Lord said to Me: "You are My Son; today I have begotten You!"

Stichon: "Ask Me, and I shall give You nations as Your Lot and the ends of the earth as Your domain."

EPISTLE:

Hebrews: 1:1-12; 2:1-3

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, whom He made heir of all things and through whom He created the universe, who is the refulgence of His glory, the very imprint of His being, and who sustains all things by His mighty word. When He had accomplished purification from sins, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say: "You are My Son; this day I have begotten You"? or again: "I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to me"? And again, when He leads the First-born into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Of angels He says: "He makes His angels winds and His ministers a fiery flame." But of the Son: "Your throne, O God, stands forever and ever; and a righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You loved justice and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of gladness above your companions." And: "At the beginning, O Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment. You will roll them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Therefore, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, so that we may not be carried away. For if the word announced through angels proved firm, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Announced originally through the Lord, it was confirmed for us by those who had heard.

ALLELUIA: *Psalm 109: 1,2*

Tone 8

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool."

The scepter of Your power the Lord will stretch forth from Sion: "Rule in the midst of Your Enemies."

I. All Share In The Joy Of Christmas

Our Saviour, dearly-beloved, was born today: let us be glad. For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so is He come to free us all. Let the saint exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in that he is called to life. For the Son of God in the fullness of time which the inscrutable depth of the Divine counsel has determined, has taken on him the nature of man, thereby to reconcile it to its Author: in order that the inventor of death, the devil, might be conquered through that (nature) which he had conquered. And in this conflict undertaken for us, the fight was fought on great and wondrous principles of fairness; for the Almighty Lord enters the lists with His savage foe not in His own majesty but in our humility, opposing him with the same form and the same nature, which shares indeed our mortality, though it is free from all sin. Truly foreign to this nativity is that which we read of all others, no one is clean from stain, not even the infant who has lived but one day upon earth (Job 19:4). Nothing therefore of the lust of the flesh has passed into that peerless nativity, nothing of the law of sin has entered. A royal Virgin of the stem of David is chosen, to be impregnated with the sacred seed and to conceive the Divinely-human offspring in mind first and then in body. And lest in ignorance of the heavenly counsel she should tremble at so strange a result, she learns from converse with the angel that what is to be wrought in her is of the Holy Ghost. Nor does she believe it loss of honour that she is soon to be the Mother of God. For why should she be in despair over the novelty of such conception, to whom the power of the most High has promised to effect it. Her implicit faith is confirmed also by the attestation of a precursory miracle, and Elizabeth receives unexpected fertility: in order that there might be no doubt that He who had given conception to the barren, would give it even to a virgin.

II. The Mystery Of The Incarnation Is A Fitting Theme For Joy Both To Angels And To Men

Therefore the Word of God, Himself God, the Son of God who in the beginning was with God, through whom all things were made and without whom was nothing made (John 1:1-3), with the purpose of delivering man from eternal death, became man: so bending Himself to take on Him our humility without decrease in His own majesty, that remaining what He was and assuming what He was not, He might unite the true form of a slave to that form in which He is equal to God the Father, and join both natures together by such a compact that the lower should not be swallowed up in its exaltation nor the higher impaired by its new associate. Without detriment therefore to the properties of either substance which then came together in one person, majesty took on humility, strength weakness, eternity mor-

NATIVITY HOMILY OF BEO THE GREAT

DAY LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

when King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and so was all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and Scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for thus it is written by the prophet, *'And you, Bethlehem, of the land of Judah are by no means least among the princes of Judah; for from you shall come forth a leader who shall shepherd my people Israel.'*" Then Herod summoned the Magi secretly, and carefully ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared to them. And sending them to Bethlehem he said, "Go and make careful inquiry concerning the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may go and worship Him." Now they, having heard the king, went their way. And behold, the star they had seen in the East went before them, until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. And when they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly. And entering the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, and falling down they worshipped Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way.

GREETING: Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

HIRMOS: O my soul, magnify the One Who is more honorable and glorious than the heavenly powers! Behold a mystery, a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave has become heaven, the Virgin a throne of the Cherubim, and the manger a noble place where Christ our God reposes. Wherefore let us praise and exalt Him!

KINONIKON: The Lord has sent Redemption to His people. Alleluia. *Liturgy Book p. 155*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Troparion of the Nativity* *Liturgy Book p. 152*

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

24 December 2024

6:00 p.m. Living Members
of St. Joseph Parish

25 December 2020

10:00 a.m. ✠Deceased Members

26 December 2024

10:00 a.m. Gregory Great Academy

29 December 2024

10:00 a.m. Marie Barron, Lois Cianci,
Joanna Simon,

A Heartfelt Thank You

to Zachary & Catherine Bateman
for the Catechetical Series
during the Sts. Barbara & Nicholas
Celebration

to all those who decorated the Church:

Nickels Family
Clark Family
Lefler Family

for baking the Qurban:
Annie Lefler

VIGIL LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

GOSPEL: *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days, a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. This first census took place while Cyrenus was governor of Syria. And all were going, each to his own town, to register. And Joseph also went from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth into Judea to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and family of David) to register, together with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone round about them, and they were very much afraid. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all the people; for today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, Who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will among men." And it came to pass, when the angels had departed from them into heaven, that the shepherds were saying to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child. And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them.

HIRMOS: *Liturgy Book p. 178*

In you, O woman full of grace, all creation exults, the hierarchy of angels together with the race of men: in you, sanctified Temple, spiritual Paradise, Glory of virgins of whom God took flesh from whom our God Who exists before the world, became a child! For He has made your womb His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation exults: glory to you!

KINONIKON: *Liturgy Book p. 83*

Praise the Lord from the highest. Alleluia!

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

DIVINE LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Faith:

All are welcome to come forward and approach the Holy Chalice who believe and profess the Catholic faith in the Holy Eucharist; namely, that what we *perceive* as bread and wine, we *believe*, in truth, is the precious and all-holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and worship it with the same adoration we ascribe to the Holy Trinity.

Charity:

Furthermore, you should approach these Life-giving Mysteries if you are a practicing Catholic, have not be neglectful of your religious observances, and are not aware of having committed any grave sins, unless having first received sacramental confession, as commanded by St. Paul (1 Cor. 11:27-30):

★ Absence from the weekly Sunday divine services. [School activities such as sports on a regular basis, inconvenience, 'fatigue' or anger at fellow parishioners do not excuse]

★ Works of the Flesh: fornication (contraception), impurity (masturbation), immodesty (pornography), idolatry, enmities, wrath, murder, drunkenness, reveling (excessive feasting). [Gal. 5:19-21]

One should try, if possible, to be reconciled with any estranged family and neighbor. (Mt 5:23)

Hope:

All who approach will have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and be as is possible at peace with all men.

[Since the proper effect of the reception of the Holy Eucharist is the divine union (communion) with Christ and His Body, the Church; those Christians who are not members of the Catholic Church will see that Holy Communion requires first establishing that visible bond of love.]

DAY LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY

GREAT DOXOLOGY:

Liturgy Book p. 17

ANTIPHONS: *Nativity of Our Lord*

FIRST:

Liturgy Book p. 29

SECOND: *Liturgy Book p. 32*

Liturgy Book p. 151

O Son of God, who were born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You: Alleluia

THIRD:

Liturgy Book p. 152

ENTRANCE HYMN:

From the womb before the morning star I begot You.

The Lord has sworn and He will not repent:

You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek.

Refrain:

Liturgy Book p. 151

O Son of God, Who were born of the Virgin, save us who sing to You Alleluia.

TROPARIA:

Nativity of our Lord (Tone 4)

Liturgy Book p. 152

Hypakoi of the Nativity

(Tone 8)

O Little Child lying in a manger, by means of a star, heaven has called and led to You the Magi, the first-fruits of the Gentiles, astounded to behold, not scepters and thrones, but extreme poverty. What, indeed, is lower than a cave? What is humbler than swaddling clothes- and yet the splendor of your divinity shone forth in them resplendently. O Lord, glory to You!

KONTAKION: *Nativity of Our Lord (Tone 3)*

Liturgy Book p. 153

TRISAGION: All of you who have been baptized...

Liturgy Book p. 51

PROKIEMENON: *Ps. 65:4, 1*

(Tone 8)

Let all on earth worship You and sing praise to You.

Stichon: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth.

EPISTLE:

Galatians 4:4-7

Brethren, when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, that He might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" So that one is no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, an heir also of God through Jesus Christ

ALLELUIA: *Psalm 18:2, 3*

(Tone 1)

The heavens declare the glory of God

and the firmament proclaims the work of His hands.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night proclaims knowledge.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, Magi came from the East to Jerusalem saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." But

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM