

December 18, 2016

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke

24:1-12 (4th Matins Gospel)

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Sunday before the Nativity. Martyr Sebastian at Rome and his companions: Martyrs Nicostratus, Zoë, Castorius, Tranquillinus, Marcellinus, Mark, Claudius, Symphorian, Victorinus, Tiburtius, and Castulus (ca. 287). Ven. Sebastian, Abbot of Pshekhónsk Monastery (Vologdá—ca. 150). Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhotúr’ye (1694). St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-634). St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7th c.). St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845).

TROPARIA

(Tone 1) When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

(Tone 2) Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. // So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION

(Tone 3) The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word Eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message, with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers / and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) Brethren: By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named.” He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

v: For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT 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 Ram, and Ram 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. And 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 Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And 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 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 commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sunday before the Nativity

The Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord (December 18-24) is known as the Sunday of the Holy Fathers. On this day the Church commemorates all those who were well-pleasing to God from all ages, from Adam to Saint Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, those who are mentioned in the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38. The holy prophets and prophetesses are also remembered today, especially the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (December 17).

The Troparion to the Prophet Daniel and the three holy youths (“Great are the accomplishments of faith...”) is quite similar to the Troparion for Saint Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to Saint Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).





CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Special Intention	Joe Tome
Health & Blessings Suzanne Neumann	Gabriel Paul
Fr. Joe, Fr. Andrew, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Jo Ann, Nicolai, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, Walt & Zina, Pauline, Dorothy, Helen, Joseph, Jeanette, Gloria, Reggie, Calvin & Ruth, Taras, Anna, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Helen, Ted & Marlene, Nicholas & Margaret, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

George (father of Cathy Edwards)-Memory Eternal	Adams family
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Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas!

ST. NICHOLAS DAY Potluck luncheon and visit from St. Nicholas will be held following the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to attend!

2017 CALENDARS are in the rear of the church. There are two types of calendars this year. One calendar per family at this time.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up. They are on the table leading into the parish hall. If you do not see envelopes with your name on them and did not request to no longer receive them, let Debbie know so that she may get envelopes for you.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS we are in need of a volunteer to pick up the wreaths and garland on Tuesday, December 20 from Carlson’s Greenhouse (Torrey Rd in Fenton Township). If you are willing to help us out, please let Debbie know as soon as possible.

CHARITY MINISTRIES

FOCUS FLINT is having a Hat & Glove Drive December, 15- January, 15. All of the hats and gloves that are collected will be distributed to children in FLINT! We are in need of child size hats and gloves. There is a large box in the parish hall to place them in. If you have any questions see Subdeacon Johnny Kantor.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting socks, towels, toiletries and new toys for the month of December. Place the items in the Blue Box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN We serve Thursday, January 5 from 9 am to 1 pm.

5TH ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER to support the Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction will be held on Thursday, January 19 at St. George. We are responsible for the drinks. The guest speaker this year will be our Bishop Alexander speaking on; Pain and Suffering in the Christian Life. Make your reservations now. Informational flyers/Reservation forms are available in the parish hall. If you have any questions or would like to donate see Calvin & Ruth Conrad or call them at 810-793-0101.

TEXT MESSAGING To help us better communicate with our parishioners we would like to start utilizing text messaging. We will be using REMIND. This will work on both types of cell phones. If you would like to receive text messages from church, please sign up using the sign-up sheet located at the candle stand.

Schedule of services and events for the week of December, 18:

Tuesday, December 20

10 am	Father in Toledo
	Prep Church for Christmas
6-8 pm	Book Club at St. George

Wednesday, December 21

9 am	Divine Liturgy
11 am	Adult Education

Saturday, December 24

	EVE OF THE NATIVITY
10 am	Divine Liturgy
5 pm	Vespers

Sunday, December 25

	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
9: 30 am	Christmas Carols
10 am	Divine Liturgy
12 pm	Caroling at Lockwood
	No Church School

Monday, December 26

9 am	SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS 2nd day of Christmas
	Divine Liturgy

Father Matthew will be out of town December 26 (following Liturgy) until December 31.

Tuesday, December 27

9 am	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR AND DEACON 3rd day of Christmas
	Divine Liturgy

Offerings for the week December 11, 2016

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$405.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$5,255.62
	-\$4,850.62

*32 people were in attendance on
Sunday, December 11, 2016*

Luke 11:42

⁴²“Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone