

December 25, 2016

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

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Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie - Rector

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MATINS GOSPEL

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

St. Matthew 1:18-25

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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016 27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar. Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks, and went to see the Lord. Priestmonk Jonah the Martyr of Pechenga (1590).

FIRST ANTIPHON

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will make all Thy wonders known! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

In the company of the upright, in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

They are studied by all who have pleasure in them! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever! **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord! Who greatly delights in His commandments! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glory and wealth are in His house, and His righteousness endures forever! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Light rises in the darkness for the upright; the Lord is merciful, compassionate and righteous! **O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand!” 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!

Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool! 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!

The Lord sends forth from Zion Thy mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of Thy foes. 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!

Authority shall be with Thee on the day of Thy power, among the splendor of Thy holy ones! 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!

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright!

Priest: Out of the womb, before the morning star, have I begotten Thee; the Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. O Son of God, born of the Virgin, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

TROPARION

(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!

KONTAKION

(Tone 3) Today the Virgin gives birth; the Virgin gives birth to the transcendent One, the transcendent One! And the earth offers, offers a cave to the unapproachable One, unapproachable One! Angels, angels with shepherds glorify Him, glorify Him! The wise men journey, journey with a star, journey with a star! Since for our sake, for our sake the Eternal God, the Eternal God was born as a little child!

INSTEAD OF “HOLY GOD...”

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Alleluia!

The Prokeimenon in the Eighth Tone: Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee; / let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

v. Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! Sing of His Name, give to Him glorious praise!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

v: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW (2:1-12) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star

which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they December 25 Liturgy Variables 3 the Nativity of Christ saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

INSTEAD OF “IT IS TRULY MEET...”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the King who was born in a cave! I contemplate a marvelous and all-glorious mystery: heaven has become a cave, the cherubic throne – a virgin; and the manger has become an honorable place in which lies Christ, the uncontainable God. As we praise Him with song, let us extol Him!

COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord has sent redemption to His people! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

INSTEAD OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT...”

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!





CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Health & Blessings Nikolai Evanenko	Krigner Family
Health & Blessings Ron Waskerwitz, John & Rose Goodman	Peggy & Bob Russell
Health & God's Blessings for Nik Evanenko	Evanenko Family
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Health & Blessings Nik Evanenko, Allen Adams, Reggie Jehnsen, Gloria Zelenko, Fred Oginsky, Anna Branoff, Special Intention	Dorothy Goodman
Anna Branoff, Nik Evanenko, Gloria Zelenko, Gladys Edwards, Jo Ann Havens, Goldie Johnson, Fred Oginsky, Pete & Olga Samaras, Aspasia Stathopoulos, Thomka Brayanis, Nick & Marge Butrie, Jake Kusluski, Kate Stevens, Alyson Wilhelm	Adams Family
Fr. Joe, Fr. Andrew, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Jo Ann, Nikolai, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, Walt & Zina, Pauline, Dorothy, Helen, Joseph, Jeanette, Gloria, Reggie, Calvin & Ruth, Taras, Anna, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Ted & Marlene, Nicholas & Margaret, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome
Happy Birthday Larry Bladecki! Many Years!	Adams Family

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Newly Departed John Naum-Memory Eternal	Teta Dorothy & family
Joe & Mickey Gonser, John Naum, John "Jack" Skolnick, Tony Branoff	Adams Family

ETERNAL LIGHT

Kosta & Theodora Papalazarou	Gerry & Lean Bakousidis
Memory Eternal for Sam & Vera Chorenko	Val Evanenko & family
Evangelia Bakousidis, Ilias Nedanis, Tronda Nicevski	Gerry & Lean Bakousidis

ETERNAL LIGHT AT THE ALTAR (Dec. 18)

Ivan & Evdokia Ponomarenko	Lucy Hogg
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CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Join us as we go caroling next door at Lockwood.

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.

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.

TEXTS 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.

THEOPHANY BANQUET will be held on Sunday, January 8 following the outdoor blessing of water and the Divine Liturgy. The meal is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under.

ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Parish will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The Meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. **All parish organizations must prepare a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting.** A pizza lunch will be held, \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children. There will be a \$100 cash raffle at the end of the meeting. **YOU MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE TO WIN!**

THANK YOU Ralph, Debbie and Joe Neely for picking up the wreaths and poinsettias. Thank you, too, Fred Paul for coming to help with the hanging of the wreaths and to Stojan Prusac, Dennis Jernigan and Tom Batzos for assembling the outdoor nativity.

ORTHODOX BOOK CLUB We had a wonderful gathering with 10 of our group gathering and reading a good part of pages 37 - 70 together and discussing. Great discussion and sharing! We will take the next two weeks off and will resume again on January 10th. Please read through page 133.

Schedule of services and events for the week of December, 25:

Monday, December 26 SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS
9 am Divine Liturgy

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

Tuesday, December 27 ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR AND DEACON 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS
9 am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31
NO VESPERS

Sunday, January 1 CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD/ST. BASIL
9: 30 am Third Hour
10 am Divine Liturgy
No Church School

Offerings for the week December 18, 2016

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,189.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$5,255.62
	-\$4,066.62

*75 people were in attendance on
Sunday, December 18, 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