

January 1, 2017

Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Saint Luke

24:36-53 (6th Matins Gospel)

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017 28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3. Forefeast of the Theophany. Sunday before the Theophany. THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379). Martyr Basil of Ancyra (ca. 362).

FIRST ANTIPHON

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thy enemies cringe before Thee!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O Most High!

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

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad. O sing unto the Lord a new song.

O Son of God, circumcised in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Out of Sion is the magnificence of His beauty.

O Son of God, circumcised in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Sing to the Lord, bless His Name!

O Son of God, circumcised in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Our God is in Heaven and earth; all things He hath willed, He hath done.

O Son of God, circumcised in the flesh, 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

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever.

(**Tone 1**) Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your Divine Spirit, O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother. Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child.

Glory to Your most gracious counsel; glory to Your dispensation; // glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

I will declare Thy truth with my mouth.

(**Tone 1**) Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your Divine Spirit, O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother. Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child.

Glory to Your most gracious counsel; glory to Your dispensation; // glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.

(Tone 1) Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your Divine Spirit, O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother. Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child. Glory to Your most gracious counsel; glory to Your dispensation; // glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, who rose from the dead, O Son of God, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

TROPARIA

(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.

(Tone 1) Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your Divine Spirit, O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother. Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child. Glory to Your most gracious counsel; glory to Your dispensation; // glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

(Tone 1) Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth, which was divinely taught by hearing your voice. You expounded the nature of creatures and ennobled the manners of men. Venerable Father of royal priesthood, // entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

(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 Lord of all accepts to be circumcised, thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men. Today He grants the world salvation, while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator, // rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

The Prokeimenon in the First Tone: My mouth shall speak wisdom, / and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

v. Hear this all you peoples, hearken all who dwell in the world!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (7:26-

8:2) *Brethren:* Brethren: it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

Alleluia, Tone 8

v. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, Thou Who didst lead Joseph's flock.

v. The just man's mouth utters wisdom and his lips speak what is right.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (2:20-21, 40-52) At that time the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET ... ,": All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INSTEAD OF "WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT..."

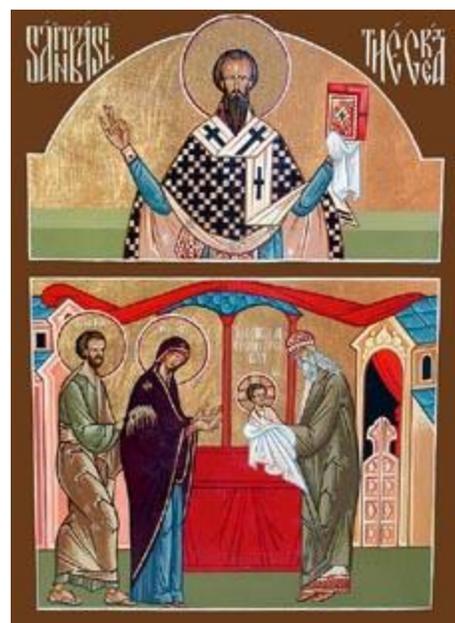
(Tone 1) Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your Divine Spirit, O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother. Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child. Glory to Your most gracious counsel; glory to Your dispensation; // glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 17:10-14, Lev. 12:3).

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics (Docetists) taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Col. 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of



the Saint Sava Monastery (October 28 and July 13).

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God’s Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Mt.1:21; Mark 9:38-39, 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord’s Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and “are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (Col. 2:11). The very name “Christian” is a sign of mankind’s entrance into a New Covenant with God.

January 1, 2017



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Joe, Fr. Andrew, Deacon Anthony, Aaron, Jo Ann, Nicolai, Kosta, Jimmy, Laurie, Walt & Zina, Dorothy, Helen, Joseph, Jeanette, Gloria, Reggie, Calvin & Ruth, Taras, Anna, Stojan & Mira, Bosa, Ted & Marlene, Nicholas & Margaret, Gladys, my family & friends	Joe Tome
Health & Blessings for Chick	Jo Ann Havens
Adelaida, Feodosiy, Irina, Oleg, Irina, Galina, Nikolay, Nikolay, Andreiy, Vlada, Kiril	Irina Sivergina
Special Intention	Joe Tome

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR ALL THOSE IN BLESSED REPOSE

Milton Economou, Bill Gogas..... Bill Economou



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

Welcome all of our friends and visitors to St. Nicholas! Please join us for fellowship, coffee and donuts in our parish hall.

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 toilet paper for the month of January. 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.

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!**

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

Tuesday, January 3

Father in Toledo

Wednesday, January 4

9 am

Divine Liturgy

11 am

Adult Education

Thursday, January 5

EVE OF THEOPHANY (STRICT FAST)

6 pm

Vespers

Friday, January 6

THEOPHANY

10 am

Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 7

5 pm

Vespers

Sunday, January 8

9: 30 am

Third Hour

10 am

Divine Liturgy w/Outdoor Blessing of Water

Theophany Banquet

No Church School

Offerings for the week December 25, 2016

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$1,440.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$5,255.62
	-\$3,815.62

*45 people were in attendance on
Sunday, December 25, 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