

The After-feast of the Holy Nativity and the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King,
and James the Brother of the Lord

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Tone 3; Eothinon 6

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Nativity (Tone 4)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Sunday after the Nativity (Tone 2)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

Apolytikion of our Patron, Michael the Archangel (Tone 2)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of thine unearthly glory; preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: Deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the highest powers.

Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Tone 3)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL (Sunday after the Nativity of Christ)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in

Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The Synaxarion

On December 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fourteen thousand infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem; George, bishop of Nicomedia; Venerable Abbot Markellos of the “Unsleeping Ones” Monastery; and all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword and freezing.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of the Lord and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

*I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin,
who to be her protector was alone chosen.*

*Thou art a carpenter’s son, but also the brother of the Lord
that built all with a word, O blest James.*

*What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testified,
as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.*

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David’s seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-

holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the “Brother of the Lord” because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

*By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us.
Amen.*

A Note Regarding Holy Communion

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread and wheat are being offered by the Srour, Cruz and Awad families for the forty-day memorial of the newly-departed servant of God, Aunt Sally E. Rihbany (+12 November, 2019) of West Roxbury, Massachusetts. Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for God’s continued mercies upon Willem Tensen and his family.

for the continued health of Daphne Thabet.

for the continued health of Riad Nasser.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December is “St. Ignatius Month” in the Antiochian Archdiocese

Members of the Order of St. Ignatius are assisting in the services this month. Reading the epistle this morning is: Don Meena. For more information on The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch speak with Father Timothy or visit their website: www.orderofstignatius.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

The Circumcision of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great (New Year's Day)

Tuesday, December 31st (New Year's Eve) – Great Vespers, 5 p.m.
with prayers for the New Year

Wednesday, January 1st (New Year's Day) – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.,
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. with prayers for the New Year

THE GREAT FEAST OF HOLY THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Friday, January 3rd — Prayers of the Royal Hours: 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 4th – The Eve of Theophany (*Paramon*) [observed as a strict fast day]
Great Vespers of the Forefeast, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 5th – Orthros, 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m., followed by
The Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday, January 6th – Festal Orthros, 8:30 a.m. immediately followed by
The Festal Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

** Services with Holy Communion*

Church School Recess

Church School is currently in a Christmas recess. Classes will resume on January 5, 2020; the Pre-Feast of Holy Theophany. We sincerely thank everyone who helped with our Lenten Luncheon last Sunday following our Christmas Program.

Annual Parish Meeting, Report Booklet

The Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. In the best interest of time, a Report Booklet is being prepared for distribution to our membership prior to the Annual Meeting. All Council officers, Standing Committees and Subsidiary Organizations should turn in their single page reports to the Church Office no later than Sunday, January 5, 2019 in order to be printed on time for distribution on January 19.



Hard to believe it's nearly 2020, but it's just around the corner!

Please be sure to review the 2020 Coffee Hour sign-up chart that is on display in the kitchen.

Reserve your choice date to honor a birthday, anniversary, memorial of a loved one or just a random date to host or co-host a coffee hour.

Young Families Meet and Greet - Sunday, January 5th, 3:30 p.m.

A "Young Families Ministry" where parents with young children (ages 1-5) get to know each other, support each other in fellowship, worship and work together. Join the Young Parents App to keep in touch at: <https://band.us/n/a0af2b6334W85> Sign up for the pot luck by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4FA4AD2EA4F85-meet> Questions? Contact Brittney Ajalat at: [<blajalat@gmail.com>](mailto:blajalat@gmail.com).

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

Jan 05 - (ForeFeast of Theophany) open

Jan 05 - reserved

Jan 12 - open

Jan 12 - open

Jan 19 - The Habib family

Jan 19 - open

Jan 26 - open

Jan 26 - open

Feb 02 - open

Feb 02 - Church School Pancake Breakfast

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@socal.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)

St. Mark Men's Club New Year's Party - Tuesday, December 31, 2019
St. Mark Hall [17840 Sky Park Circle; Irvine; 92614] \$75/person,
\$45/under 15 occupying a seat (no babysitting); RSVP by 12/15

St. Nicholas Cathedral New Year's Eve Hafli - December 31, 2019
Doors open at 9 p.m., \$150/ticket; \$35/babysitting

Young Parents Meet and Greet Potluck - Sunday, January 5, 3:30 p.m.

A Day Retreat for Orthodox Moms - Saturday, January 11
at St. Luke Church (Garden Grove); Minimum donation: \$25
Speakers: Father Nicholas and Khourye Jan Speier

CPR Certification and Re-certification - Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m.
Sign up with Mary Ann Mitchell: mitchellmarya@gmail.com

Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership - Sunday, January 26

Antiochian Diocesan Seminar (Alhambra) - February 3-6, 2020

Archdiocese Winter Sacred Music Institute - February 20-23; hosted by
St. Michael Church (Van Nuys, California)

St. Michael Church to Host Archdiocese Winter Sacred Music Institute - February 20-23, 2020



Liturgical music does not have ethnic borders. It does not have ethnic characteristics. It is not Greek, Arabic, or Russian. The Church Fathers did not create ethnic borders for worship. If music lifts you up, if it is a vehicle for prayer—not Western, Eastern, Byzantine or Slavic—it is Church music (Metropolitan JOSEPH)

With the blessing of Metropolitan JOSEPH, this year's Winter Sacred Music Institute will be hosted by St. Michael Church in Southern California. Mareena Ball, the newly appointed Chair of the Archdiocese Department of Sacred Music notes: "I would like to encourage you to join us as we present the theme: *Music as Prayer: Technique to Support Beautiful and Meaningful Worship.*" Each of the Music Institutes offer a variety of sessions on topics of interest to those who participate in the ministry of music within the life of a parish, such as chant, conducting, vocal techniques and music theory. There is also time in the weekend devoted to worship, reflection and building relationships in fellowship."

Among the keynote speakers are: Deacon John El Massih and the V. Rev. Timothy Baclig. Those attending the Institute from out of town will be registering on-line through the Archdiocese website once the schedule and information for the dates are finalized. Accommodations will include the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California. If you are interested in assisting with the needs for hospitality, please speak with Father Timothy Baclig or e-mail him at: pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org

The members of our choir are encouraged to attend the institute and to register once the information is posted on-line. For more information on the work of the Archdiocese Department of Sacred Music go to: <http://ww1.antiochian.org/music>

Cathedral “Kicks Off” Debutante Ball Event Fundraising

St. Nicholas Cathedral is hosting the 57th “Sweetheart Ball,” scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Universal Hilton in Universal City. The event is being co-chaired by Rose Samore and Georgette Malouf. Some of our teens are participants in this biennial event. Program Book Sponsorships are being solicited and is a lovely way to honor our young women. The form is available on the narthex bulletin board. The deadline is February 21, 2020. Checks are payable to: “St. Nicholas Ladies Society.” Tickets for the event and more information is available by contacting: Tania Matar at 818-903-0953 or by e-mail at: <taniamatta@sbcglobal.net>.

Capital Funds Campaign Committee Recommends Building Fund Donation Tax Benefits

A charitable donation of long-term appreciated securities, i.e., stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time is one of the best and most tax-efficient of all ways to give. This method of giving has become increasingly popular in recent years. There are two main advantages: 1) Any long-term appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) may be donated to the church with the benefit of receiving a tax deduction for the full fair value of the securities—up to 60% of the donor’s adjusted gross income; 2) since the securities/stock is being donated rather than sold, capital gains

taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. And the more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be.

Second: A Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) is an option for anyone 70.5 years of age or older. You can take advantage of withdrawing from your personal IRA (Individual Retirement Account) without paying Federal or State Taxes in order to your their pledge. You would not be able to take a tax deduction on the donation, however, not having to pay Federal or State Taxes on the IRA withdrawal far exceeds the benefit of a tax deduction. [Your IRA deduction cannot exceed \$100,000 per year.]

In both of the above options the funds would need to be transferred from either your Securities Brokerage Account or IRA Account directly to the St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church Brokerage Account to qualify.

Third: Many corporations provide their employees with a "Matching Funds Program" to the charity of their choice. The amount may vary with each company. We suggest that you check with the Human Resources Department or the Comptroller of the company where you are employed to see if such a program is being offered.

Finally: The IRS allows you to deduct state income tax and property tax on your federal income tax return to lower your tax bill. Before the tax laws changed, there was no limit to how much taxpayers could deduct for state and local taxes. Beginning in tax year 2018, the deduction has been capped at \$10,000 for all state and local income, property, and sales taxes combined.

By contrast, contributions to charitable organizations, including St. Michael Church, have a much higher limit -- they may be deducted up to 50% of a person's adjusted gross income. While we do not expect any parishioner to make a contribution of 50% of their adjusted gross income, the high deduction limit offers an attractive alternative to the \$10,000 cap on deductions for state and local income, property and sales taxes paid by parishioners. Please consider this tax benefit when planning your giving to the Church Building Fund.

St. Michael Church has benefited by all of the above from its members. For more information please speak with Ron Zraick, Chairman of the Capital Funds Campaign Committee <ronaldzraick@yahoo.com>.

The After-Feast and Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

The Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,
David the Prophet and King, and James the Brother of the Lord

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الثالث

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الارضيات, لانّ الربّ صنعَ عزراً بساعده, ووطئ الموت
بالموت, وصارَ بكرَ الاموات, وأنقذنا من جوفِ الجحيم, ومنح العالمَ الرحمةَ العظمى

طروبارية الميلاد باللحن الرابع

ميلادُك أيها المسيحُ الهُنا, قد أطلع نورَ المعرفةِ في العالم, لانّ الساجدين للكواكب, به
تعلموا من الكوكبِ السجودَ لك يا شمسَ العدل, وان يعرفوا أنك المشرق الذي من العلاء,
يا ربُّ المجد لك

طروبارية الأحد بعد الميلاد على اللحن الثاني

يا يوسف بشرُ داود جدّ الإله بالعجائب الباهرة. لأنك قد رأيتَ البتولَ حاملاً, فمع
الرعاةِ مجّدت, ومع المجوسِ سجدت, وبالملاك أوحى إليك. فابتهل إلى المسيح الإله أن
يخلص نفوسنا

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة باللحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين, نتوسّلُ إليكم نحن غيرَ المستحقّين, حتّى أتكم
بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظلّ أجنحةِ مجدكم غير الهيولي, حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين
والصارخين بغير فتور, أنقذونا من الشدائد, بما أتكم رؤساء مراتب القوّات العلوية.

قنّداق الميلاد على اللحن الثالث

اليوم العذراءُ تلد الفائقَ الجوهر, والأرضُ تقربُ المغارةَ لمن لا يُدنى منه. الملائكةُ مع
الرعاةِ يمجّدون, والمجوسُ مع الكوكبِ في الطريق يسرون, لأنّه قد وُلد من أجلنا صبيٌّ
جديدٌ, وهو الإله قبل الدهور

الرسالة

عجيب هو الله في مقدسه, في المجامع باركوا الله. فصلٌ من رسالةِ القديسِ بولسِ الرسولِ إلى أهلِ غلاطيةِ

يا اخوةُ, أعلمكم أن البشارة التي بشرتكم بها ليست على سنة البشر. فأنا لم أتسلمها أو تعلمتها من بشر, بل بإعلان يسوع المسيح. فإنكم سمعتم بسيرتي الماضية في ملة اليهود, وكيف كنت أضطهد كنيسة الله غاية الاضطهاد وأحاول تدميرها وأفوق أترابي من بني قومي في ملة اليهود حمية على تقاليد آبائي. ولكن لما ارتضى الله الذي دعاني بنعمته وأنا في بطن أمي إلى خدمته, أن يعلن ابنه في لأبشر به بين الأمم, لم استشر لحما ودما ولا صعدت إلى أورشليم لأرى الذين كانوا رسلا قبلي, بل ذهبت على الفور إلى بلاد العرب, وبعد ذلك رجعت إلى أورشليم. ثم أني بعد ثلاث سنوات صعدت إلى أورشليم لأرى بطرس, فأقمت عنده خمسة عشر يوما, ولم أر غيره من الرسل سوى يعقوب أخي الرب.

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارةِ القديسِ متي

ولما انصرف المجوس, ظهر ملاك الرب ليوسف في الحلم قائلاً: "قم, خذ الصبي وأمه واهرب إلى مصر وأقم فيها, حتى أعلمك, لان هيرودس سيبحث عن الصبي ليهلكه. فقام وأخذ الصبي وأمه ليلا وانصرف إلى مصر. فأقام فيها إلى أن مات هيرودس, ليتم ما قال الرب على لسان النبي: "من مصر دعوت ابني." فلما رأى هيرودس أن المجوس استهزأوا به, غضب جدا وأمر بقتل كل صبيان بيت لحم وجميع تخومها, من ابن سنتين فما دون ذلك, حسب الزمان الذي تحققه من المجوس. فتم ما قال أرميه النبي: صراخ سمع في الرامة, نوح وبكاء ونحيب كثير, راحيل تبكي على أولادها وقد أبت أن تتعزى, لأنهم ليسوا على قيد الحياة." ولما مات هيرودس ظهر ملاك الرب ليوسف في الحلم في مصر قائلاً: "قم, خذ الصبي وأمه وارجع إلى أرض إسرائيل, فقد مات من كان يريد قتل الصبي." فقام وأخذ الصبي وأمه وجاء إلى أرض إسرائيل. ولما سمع أن أرخيلوس يملك على اليهودية خلفا لابيه هيرودس, خاف أن يذهب إليها. فأوحى إليه في الحلم, فانصرف إلى نواحي الجليل. وجاء مدينة اسمها الناصرة فسكن فيها, ليتم ما قيل على لسان الأنبياء: "إنه يدعى ناصريا."

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن .إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية