



On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children. There is a direct lineage in the life of the Lord Jesus, who came in history, not outside it. He came much in the same manner as do we all. This is a great testimony to the wonder and power of God that He would speak His Eternal Word into history and that from that history would rise up the Word Made Flesh, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. No esoteric God is our! He comes as our fabric yet remaining eternal and without beginning or end. The Nativity, then is a celebration of human history as it was anointed to become the pathway for heaven to touch earth.

#### EPISTLE Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham 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 foundation, whose builder and maker is God. 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 tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, 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.

#### TODAY'S READER: STELLA COMINOS

#### GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-23

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.

### DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, December 24, 2009: **The Eve of the Nativity Royal Hours and Liturgy of St. Basil 9:00 a.m.**

**EVENING CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS Divine Liturgy followed by the Christmas Pageant and Caroling 7:30 p.m.**

Friday, December 25, 2009: **FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE FLESH Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

Sunday, December 27, 2009: **Sunday After the Nativity, Feast of the Holy Protomartyr St. Stephen Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Friday, January 1, 2010: **Circumcision of the Lord and the Feast of St. Basil the Great Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**



Lo! The King draws near! In but a few days we will remember the birth in the flesh of the Incarnate Word of God. How have we spent these weeks of preparation? Have we increasingly been drawn into the secular frenzy? Have our hearts and minds been primarily occupied with gifts, tree trimming, parties, guests, and the like? Have we let the busy-ness of this time control our everyday? Have we faithfully kept the fast or made excuses for not doing so? Or have we **STOPPED** to reflect on the eternal truth of this season? Have we made room for the Lord in our hearts? Have we prepared our souls to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel? Have we gone to Confession to purify ourselves for the feast or have we rationalized our sin and weakness out of our lives? These are the weighty questions of the last days of the pre-Nativity season. They confront us honestly and challenge us to make these final days truly **spiritual ones** — ones of individual and family prayer, ones of interior purification and the cleansing of our hearts and souls, ones where we read the accounts of the Lord birth in Scripture as families and marvel at what we hear. There is still time to prepare. There is time to place Christ Jesus back in **CHRISTmas**. There is time to make ready our souls as the cave was made ready for His birth. All it requires is a decision — a choice. *Will you make that choice?*

#### MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **George Constantine Campbell (1 Year)**, requested by his daughter Barbara (Patrick) Campbell Potter and grandchildren Alexa and Christian; **Efstathios (Steve) Maragousis (3 Years)**, requested by Maria his wife, Demetrios, his son, Tina (Erin) his daughter and Evanthia his grandchild; for **Mary and George Seymore (10 Years)**, requested by Anna Maria (Raymond) Colevas his daughter, George Seymore III, his son, and Phillip his grandchild; and for **Chrysoula Perlatti (10 Years)**, requested by her family. May their memory be eternal!

#### REPORT ON PATRIARCH TO AIR

The CBS program "60 Minutes" will air a segment this evening on Patriarch Bartholomew and the Greek Orthodox Church's activity in the Middle East. It is said to be quite informative. It airs at 7 p.m. on WUSA Channel 9.

#### NATIVITY FLOWERS

The beautiful poinsettias have generously been donated by Mrs. Marie Argryopoulos in loving memory of her husband Chris and her daughter Christina and for the health and happiness of her grandchildren Christopher, Paul, Maria and Phillip.

**PRAYER LIST:** Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Saxton, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Artie Constantinides, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Lt. Mikael Johnson, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy.

### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

### **2010 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE**

The new Ecclesiastical Calendars for 2010 have arrived. **They will be available on Sundays following Divine Liturgy at a table in the Founders Hall.** You may pick up *ONE* calendar per family in order to make certain that every family in the parish has one. These useful calendars contain all the feast days for the year as well as the daily Scripture readings. Get yours now!

**URGENT NEED** A Greek Orthodox man named George Alexandrou, afflicted with severe Anemia, is in dire need of a bone marrow transplant. He, and his wife Sue, are being treated at the NIH Marrow Donor Program. If you wish to consider being a donor and/or to find out if you are a match contact Meghann Long, the recruiting assistant for the program at 301-496-0572. George is not expected to survive long without the transplant. You may also register and inquire online at [http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/Join\\_Now/join\\_now.html](http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/Join_Now/join_now.html) "Inasmuch as you did it for one of these.....you did it for me."

**FEED THE HUNGRY** is in need of drivers and cooks to deliver and prepare food for the local shelters **THE NEXT FEED THE HUNGRY SUNDAY IS TODAY.** Contact is Peggy Hackman \* 301-340-6027 \* or email her at [hackmans@comcast.net](mailto:hackmans@comcast.net)

**FIFTY PLUS** Wishing all the members of the Fifty Plus Club and the community of St George a very blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. The first meeting of the New Year will be January 13, 2010 in the Founders Hall at 11:30am with the cutting of the Vasilopita

**HELPING OUR SISTER PARISH IN TAYBEH** Once again our Sunday School is reaching out to our sister parish, St. George, in Taybeh, Palestine Help educate and warm the lives of children attending their Orthodox School. Your Christmas donation will help pay for student tuition fees and electricity for the school. Forms for donating are available on the table outside the Church Office or see Athena Kranias.

**PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY** The Annual Philoptochos Bake Sale will take place today in the Grand Hall, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.ase). We will have an assortment of packaged traditional sweets in addition to Vasilopita's! Our Commemorative Christmas Ornament will also be available for purchase today. Our ornament features an beautiful Icon of the Nativity and comes with a certificate. Our Philoptochos is still collecting gift cards or donations for families in need in our community. There will be a giving tree at the Bake Sale if you would like to contribute. Thank you for your support now and always! Lia Kent, Philoptochos President, [kent\\_amalia@yahoo.com](mailto:kent_amalia@yahoo.com).

### **ST. GEORGE'S BOOKSTORE: A GREAT PLACE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

Why not give an icon or a spiritual book this Christmas to commemorate the REAL meaning of the season?

**MAKE SURE YOU STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE AFTER DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY**

# **FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

DECEMBER 20, 2009



**ICON OF THE TREE OF JESSEE**

## **THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE**

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