

**The 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 St 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 St Theodore the Recruit (February 17, and the first Saturday of Great Lent). The Kontakion to St Theodore, who suffered martyrdom by fire, reminds us that he also had faith as his breastplate (see I Thessalonians 5:8).

**Venerable Ignatius the Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves:**

In our church, rest relics of the holy **Saint Ignatius, Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves**. The church commemorates him on **December 20**.

Saint Ignatius, Archimandrite of the Kiev Caves: In the general service to the Kiev Caves saints, it says of him:

*"Ignatius, monastic pastor and healer of the sick, in our infirmities you help us by your reverence, therefore let us offer song of praise unto your memory"* (Ode 1 of the Canon).

He was buried in the Far (Theodosiev) Caves, and his memory is celebrated together with the Fathers of these Far Caves, on August 28. The commemoration of the St Ignatius was established on December 20 because of his namesake, the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-Bearer. There is also another commemoration: the Synaxis of all the Fathers of the Kiev Caves monastery on the second Sunday of Great Lent.

See us on the web at:  
[ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
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[Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**  
*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Sunday before Nativity

Glory to Jesus  
Christ

Glory Forever

*You did not worship the graven image,  
O thrice-blessed ones,  
but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,  
you were glorified in a trial by fire.  
From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:  
Hasten, O compassionate One!  
Speedily come to our aid,  
for You are merciful and able to do as You will.*  
Kontakion - Sunday before the Nativity

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**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. 1500) • Righteous Simeon, Wonderworker of Verkhotúr'ye (1694) • St. Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem (633-4) • St. Florus, Bishop of Amisus (7<sup>th</sup> c.) • St. Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (ca. 845)

**December 18, 2011**

Tone 2 of the Octoechos.  
(Sunday before Nativity)

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For eternal memory of:****Adele Taran**, Mother of Holly, (Six months).**Health of:****Maribeth Romanofsky** on her Birthday, offered by her family.**Aunt Jean and Sandra** on their Birthdays, offered by Linda and Richard**MaryAnn Kuzemchak** on her Birthday, offered by her family.**Readings:**

- **Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40** (Sunday Before Nativity)
- **Matthew 1:1-25** (Sunday Before Nativity)

**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.

**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.

**Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM** **Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM**  
**(General Confession - 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)**  
**(Pannikhidas - after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)**

**Church School - 9:30 AM**(no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**Coffee hour after Liturgy**

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.**

**Announcements:**

- **On the this Sunday, there will be a second collection for the Nativity flowers and decorations.**

**Nativity of Our Lord services:**

- **Saturday, December 24, 2010 - Nativity Eve Service - 6:00 pm**
- **Sunday, December 25, 2010 - Nativity Service - 10:00 am**

**Special Announcements:**

- **Parish dues have been increased for the 2012-year by \$25.** That means that **the Parish Membership Fee will now be \$200.** This was needed because our monthly income has constantly been below our monthly expenses. (The Parish Membership Fee is the total of the \$55 parish dues, and the \$145 diocesan assessment.)
- **Toys for Kids** The church school students thank everyone who donated to the *"Toys for Kids"* campaign this year.
- **Please look on our website** for pictures of our holiday celebration. [ChurchMotherOfGod.org](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Reminder:**

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)